

THE TIMES

Hundreds dead in Kabul revolt against Russians

Hundreds are believed to have died during the weekend uprising in Kabul. Although the city was quiet yesterday under Soviet guns, hatred of the Russians was simmering everywhere, according to messages reaching Islamabad and Delhi.

Hated Soviet troops split city in two

Islamabad, Feb 24.—Streets and pavements in Kabul are stained with blood after fighting in which hundreds of people are thought to have been killed, informed sources said here today.

The sources, who have access to reliable information in the Afghan capital, said that hospitals were strained to the limit. Some had run short of beds and medicine.

Evidence of large-scale killing is everywhere, particularly in the old city, one source said. "It is believed there are several hundred dead and the number of wounded could be in the thousands."

Afghanistan said today in a statement broadcast by Moscow radio that it had crushed an attempt organized by the United States, China and Pakistan to mount a revolt against the new Soviet-backed Government.

The sources said that bazaars and shops in Kabul were closed for the fourth consecutive day in a sign of continuing unrest. intermittent firing could also be heard. "The city is extremely tense although Kabul is very much in the iron grip of Soviet and Afghan troops," a source said.

According to reports reaching here, Soviet troops in Jalalabad continued to be reinforced and may now number about 5,000. Some were understood to be heading north-east and east towards the frontier with Pakistan.

Leading article, page 15

Herr Brandt 'sought as East-West mediator'

From Gretel Spitzer Berlin, Feb 24.

Herr Willy Brandt, chairman of West Germany's Social Democratic Party, and former Chancellor, was asked by the United States and the Soviet Union whether he would be willing to act as a mediator between Washington and Moscow, *Der Spiegel*, the news magazine reported today.

Herr Lothar Späth, a spokesman for the SPD, partially confirmed the report. He said that it contained "more speculative than helpful and suitable elements".

Asked whether he denied the report, he said: "No." He would not elaborate. (Reuters reports from Hamburg that an SPD spokesman said it was correct that Mr got to talk again). Herr Brandt earlier this month. The spokesman refused to confirm or deny whether the President had asked Mr Brandt to go to Moscow. Mr Brandt did not plan such a trip at present, he added.)

Der Spiegel's story, in brief, is as follows: On Friday, February 15, Herr Brandt submitted

the report of the North-South Commission to President Carter.

The President asked Herr Brandt if he was prepared to undertake a trip to Moscow, in view of his good relations with Mr Brezhnev. It was felt he could get dialogue between East and West started again.

The magazine quotes Mr Carter as saying: "Please start on the assumption that we have got totally again". Herr Brandt is reported to have reacted with amazement, but to have let the President know that he was prepared to make such a trip.

According to the magazine, the Russians approached Herr Brandt on February 4, when Mr Vladimir Semenov, the Soviet Ambassador, gave Herr Brandt a list of what Moscow considered offences by the West against defence.

Washington responds: While declining any official comment on the report, Administration officials said it was quite possible that President Carter or his senior foreign policy advisers had asked Herr Brandt to mediate with Moscow over Afghanistan (Our Washington Correspondent writes).



UN team in Tehran: President Bani-Sadr of Iran (centre), shaking hands with Mr Muhammad Bedjani of Algeria during the formal welcoming of the five-member commission of inquiry to Iran yesterday. The United Nations, which sponsors the commission, and the Carter Administration, hope that the investigation into the deposed Shah's

rule will lead to the release of the hostages held in the American Embassy in Tehran. The commission, composed of five lawyers, received promises of co-operation from Iranian leaders, including Mr Sadegh Qorbzadeh, the Foreign Minister. But government officials insisted that the commission's task was not to free the 49

American hostages, and it was not clear whether they would be allowed to see the captives. President Bani-Sadr has said that America's recognition of its past role in supporting the Shah in his alleged crimes against the Iranian people is a prime condition for the release of the hostages. But in an interview with the official Paris news agency, Mr Qorbzadeh repeated that the commission and the hostages were separate issues.

The whole issue of the hostages' release appears to have been postponed after a weekend statement by Ayatollah Khomeini handing over the setting of terms for their release to Iran's Parliament, which is to be elected next month.

Mr Sirs is expected to end union action at private steel firms

By David Featon Labour Reporter

Leaders of the main union concerned in the national steel strike, which this week enters its third month, this afternoon are expected to call off the action by its members in the private steel companies in the face of their increasing reluctance to stay on strike.

The executive committee of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation will meet a short time after Mr William Sirs, the union's general secretary, has met senior British Steel Corporation officials at a TUC steel committee meeting.

Mr Sirs and Mr Hector Smith, leader of the blast furnace's union, hope that British Steel will announce that it has dropped its deadline of \$2,000 redundancies in the industry by the end of August.

British Steel officials refused to be drawn on what might be said at the steel committee meeting by Mr Robert Scholey, the corporation's chief executive, and Dr David Grieves, personnel director, but said that a delay in the closure of the closure programme did not mean that extra funds could be transferred to meet the unions' pay claim.

Confederation officials acknowledged that withdrawing the strike instruction from the private sector would weaken their position, and might stiffen the resolve of the "hawks" in the Cabinet who, the union believes, hope that the resolve of confederation members in British Steel will start to flag.

The union said yesterday that there was no evidence of this happening and it did not consider the votes to return to work by 50,000 workers at Hadfields and at other private sector companies as a defeat. With the private sector back to work, the union would start receiving subscriptions again and a levy of the private sector members to support the British Steel strike had not been ruled out.

The union's leaders are also angry at the corporation's response to the claim which was presented on Friday and which was dismissed by Mr Scholey as leaving a "massive" gap between the two sides.

Mr Roy Evans, the confederation's assistant general secretary, said that he thought Mr Scholey's "abusus" was not working properly and that he had not taken into account the fact that the unions were offering a 15-month deal.

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Mr Murray said: "We shall not be fooled by talk of bringing the Government down. We want to say: 'We don't like your policies. They must be replaced by policies which bind the wounds of the nation'."

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From Tim Jones

Cardiff, Feb 24.—South Wales miners have rejected by a crushing majority the recommendation by private sector steelworkers to resume normal work at Hadfields, one of Sheffield's biggest privately-owned steel companies (Ronald Kershaw writes from Sheffield).

Workers at Sheffield's other big steelsmith, Firth Brown, have also decided on a return to work.

Protest strike call: Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, yesterday called for a national one-day stoppage in protest against Government policies (the Press Association reports).

"We are asking people on (Wednesday) May 14 to take the day off from work to demonstrate their protest and make their voices heard," he said at a meeting of Dover Trades Council.

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After a long meeting of the executive on Saturday, Mr George Rees, secretary of the South Wales miners, said it was "extremely disappointed" with the results, although he showed that his miners would be willing to take industrial action as long as it was organized on an "international basis throughout Britain's coalfields by the national executive."

Hadfields men revolt: Open revolt against the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation strike showed at the weekend with the decision by private sector steelworkers to resume normal work at Hadfields, one of Sheffield's biggest privately-owned steel companies (Ronald Kershaw writes from Sheffield).

Miners work on after big snub to leaders

From Tim Jones

Cardiff, Feb 24.—South Wales miners have rejected by a crushing majority the recommendation by private sector steelworkers to resume normal work at Hadfields, one of Sheffield's biggest privately-owned steel companies (Ronald Kershaw writes from Sheffield).

Work will continue normally in the area's 36 pits after the men voted by 22,000 to 4,000 to rebel against their executive committee, who called the action in protest against the British Steel Corporation's plan to run down steelmaking in Wales. That the executive said could lead to the closure of up to 20 pits, with the loss of 14,000 jobs.

The miners' decision, which was supported by workers at the most militant mines in the area, led to calls for the resignation of the union's leadership and renewed accusations that they were out of touch with grass roots feeling.

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Tomorrow a special delegate conference is to discuss the alleged interference, which coal board officials strongly deny. The delegates will also examine why their unanimous recommendation was so clearly at odds with the mood of the coalfield.

Mr Rees claimed that the NCB, after asking the miners to take steps to prevent the importation of foreign coking coal had destroyed their efforts by "interference" in the ballot and had undermined their blacking agreements with the dockers.

Mr Rees said a statement by Wednesday, and it was indeed exceedingly dull, partly because they were all so polite to each other. Five who were excluded by the proposal of the *Nashua Telegraph* all protested bitterly, and the Federal Election Commission ruled that the newspaper could not pay for the debate because that would be a corporate contribution to the Bush and Reagan campaigns.

Mr Reagan then proposed to share the expense with Mr Bush and when his rival declined, paid for it all himself and, at the last moment, invited the other five candidates to attend.

Four accepted gladly. (Mr John Connally was out of state and missed the event) but Mr Bush refused. He and the *Nashua Telegraph* wanted a two-man debate.

The newspaper invited the four unlucky candidates, Senator Baker and Senator Dole and Mr Anderson and Mr Crane, to attend the debate and to make short statements at the end of it. All six then came on to the platform in the school gymnasium in Nashua, and Mr John Breen, the newspaper's executive editor, took the chair.

Mr Reagan took the microphone, and started to make a statement to explain why the debate would be between him and Mr Bush alone. Mr Breen interrupted: "Will the sound man please turn Mr Reagan's microphone off?"

This provoked a storm of protest from the audience, and the comment from Mr Reagan: "I am the sponsor, and I suppose I have some rights". Mr Breen abandoned his objections.

Mr Reagan blamed Mr Bush for the confusion and for the exclusion of the other four candidates, while his rival sat uncomfortably off to one side. The other four then walked off, shaking Mr Reagan's hand and ignoring Mr Bush.

"There'll be another day,

Continued on page 6, col 5

Oil tanker disaster poses threat to Greek bay

From Mario Modiano Athens, Feb 24.

Four anti-pollution squads of the Greek Ministry of Merchant Marine were working today at the Bay of Pylos in southwestern Greece to prevent an ecological disaster after the Greek tanker Irene Sarema sank with 101,000 tons of crude oil aboard.

The tanker, which was carrying the oil from Syria to Trieste, ran aground at Pylos yesterday for refuelling. A sudden explosion followed by a fire left in shambles and half-sunk about one mile from the harbour.

The first mate and the purser were reported missing, but the remaining crew—12 Greeks and 17 foreigners—were safe on shore.

The tanker sank early today after a series of explosions. The fire died down, but oil continued to gush out of the hull.

The anti-pollution teams, working from four special craft, tried to restrict the oil slick which, if left unchecked, could destroy all the marine life in the bay, considered one of the most beautiful in Greece.

The narrow passages to the open sea meant that it could take decades for the water in the bay to be renewed. The bay is three and a half miles long and two miles wide.

Three years ago Pylos Bay was the centre of controversy when conservationists fought a legal battle against plans to set up a chain of industries there based on a large shipyard.

Security forces show off Soviet tanks as rallies end Rhodesia poll campaign

From Nicholas Ashford and Dan van der Vat

Salisbury, Feb 24.—Tanks. In an extraordinarily insensitive and ultimately demonstrators the Security Forces also disclosed that they had acquired air-to-air missiles for use against British-made Hawker Hunter fighters.

The Rhodesians are believed to have about 32 Soviet tanks, enough to equip about half an armoured regiment. They are understood to have been sent on an East European cargo ship by Colonel Gaddafi of Libya to President Amin of Uganda as the Amin regime was collapsing.

The ship was apparently diverted at sea to Durban, South Africa, from where the tanks were brought into Rhodesia.

One notable absentee from the weekend rallies was Major General Mugabe, leader of the radical Zanu (PF) party. He was to have spoken at a meeting at Umtali yesterday but changed his plane after a rocket was found outside a stadium. He has not addressed a rally for two weeks, having also failed to appear at a meeting at Bulawayo a week ago again for security reasons.

As Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Patriotic Front (PF), and Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the former Prime Minister and leader of the UANC, addressed their final rallies, 570 British policemen were being sent out today to rural polling stations, ready to reassure voters of the secrecy and honesty of the ballot. The men arrived here at the weekend with tropical uniforms and their traditional helme.

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President Tito weakened by pneumonia

Belgrade, Feb 24.—President Tito is now suffering from pneumonia as well as serious kidney trouble and his power of resistance is clearly declining.

He had been put on a dialysis machine which seemed to have stabilized his weakened kidneys but because of prolonged rest he developed pneumonia which was disclosed yesterday.

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HOME NEWS

Mrs Thatcher considering 'one big dose' of bitter medicine by issuing cuts plans with the Budget

By Fred Emery

Political Editor
The Prime Minister is considering postponing by a week the White Paper on public expenditure cuts, and instead publishing it together with the Budget on March 25.

That would mean deferring the Defence White Paper until after the Budget, probably until Easter week in April, just before Parliament rises for the recess.

Those arrangements, it was learnt yesterday, are intended to avert any disorder in presentation of the Government's reduced spending programmes, not only for next year but also for the years 1981-84. Reports that Cabinet arguments over cuts have delayed the Defence White Paper are firmly resisted, if only because the argument was settled some weeks ago, in the Defence Ministry's favour.

The paper detailing the fresh round of cuts for 1980-81, an exercise that caused some controversy in the Cabinet, had been planned for publication on March 17.

It is expected to propose loosing at least a further £700m off next year's public spending, plus whatever can be reduced from Britain's net contribution next financial year of more than £1,000m to the EEC budget.

The postponement would mean, in terms of presentation, that the bitter medicine will come in one big dose rather than two.

That is just as well, considering the Tory leadership's summons to stick together "whatever the going gets toughest".

Reports that the party leader, Mr Edward Heath, has been encouraged by private opinion polls not to turn to local party officers.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher issued a similar call at last

Thursday's Cabinet meeting, in view of what she called the tough fortnight ahead.

Reports that she issued a directive to some of her dissenting colleagues in effect to shut up or resign could not be confirmed. It was said that when she issued her call in the Cabinet her colleagues heard her in silence.

This week will provide a public test of the kind that Mrs Thatcher has enjoyed in the past.

Tonight she is being interviewed by Mr Robin Day on BBC1's *Panorama* programme, and is said to be preparing herself with some care. On Thursday she will reply in the Commons to the Opposition's motion of no confidence, to be moved by Mr James Callaghan.

While there is no doubt that the Government will prevail in the vote, many of her supporters are looking to her for a sparkling performance to dispel doubts. The need it to rally party morale after the Government's uncertain handling of policy in the two months of the steel strike.

Obviously the Government is relishing the better news from the refusals to strike of BL workers, South Wales miners and the private steel workers.

All ministers would also dearly like to have some progress towards settlement in the steel strike to report by Thursday, it is accepted, however, that there is little sign of movement, although several ministers believe that some creative negotiation should be attempted.

Reports that the party leadership has also been encouraged by private opinion polls are not extraordinary.

Since they apparently reflect the approximate cut in Labour's lead to 4½ per cent reported in

the latest Gallup poll, there is some ground for Conservative satisfaction. But Mrs Thatcher has always preferred to emphasize her interest in real policing. Conservative MPs from the South-east are worried over the rest of the Southend, East, by-election on March 13.

Lord Thorneycroft asserted in his message that Mrs Thatcher's was "not a Cabinet divided", even while confirming the differences that have lately been emerging publicly.

A Cabinet facing Labour's legacy of economic damage, he said, "whose members express some compassionate understanding of the problems which confront ordinary men and women in this country, is not

Cabinet divided. It is a Cabinet which reflects the historic traditions and humanity of the Conservative approach... it should command respect, not criticism".

Lord Thorneycroft, of course, knows, and feels, that it is the compassionate side of this Government's politics that has been lacking in public, and that some Cabinet members are restive about that.

The most vibrant celebration of recent anti-strike action came in the House of Commons by Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the Conservative Committee of Conservative backbenchers.

Defecting a new industrial revolution ahead, he said: "Workers all over the country are repudiating extremists, leadership, with its mixture of Luddite and self-destructive tendencies, and demanding the right to work."

The therapy is the product of more than three decades of spare-time research by Mr Leonard Head, of Cranbrook, Kent, a former furniture manufacturer, who believes he is pioneering in a field ignored by conventional medicine.

The two constituents of his therapy are oxygen and negative ions, small air particles which have "picked up" an extra electron. With a combination of those, he says, he has prevented or retarded influenza, bronchitis, arthritis, eczema and varieties of heart and intestinal disease.

He has also successfully treated burns and relieved Raynaud's disease, a circulatory condition in which nervous stress causes ulcerated fingers and toes. He believes his therapy has wider applications.

Many of the 20 cases Mr Head has helped have been family or friends. He has set up the Institute of Negative Ion Therapy, founded Head's theory of climatic conditions and diseases, and kept him and his family free of the common cold for about 25 years.

Union indiscipline, page 14

More mobility needed between press officers and administrators

Better Whitehall information system sought

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Angus Maude, Paymaster General and minister responsible for the coordination of government information services, is considering schemes for introducing greater mobility inside the press offices of Whitehall departments, with more interchange between information and specialists and administrators.

An elaborate trawling system is used at present to find candidates for promotion to top posts in the information group whose members have traditionally tried to resist the appointment of administrators to specialize in information jobs.

It can take between four months and one year to negotiate the recruitment of an outsider to an information post.

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Union indiscipline, page 14



Mr Angus Maude : Seeking a more fluid relationship.

take them seriously and regard them as an inferior breed.

He is open minded about the benefits of seconding administrators to information work, arguing that successful transfers depend on the individual.

He explained: "I would like, in concert with the Civil Service Department, to get a reasonably friendly agreement with the unions that would, if not loosen up, at least speed up recruitment and transfer procedures.

"It would be in the best interest of the Civil Service and the information group. The trawling process is really being gamma to the service. There is a lack of mobility and too little opportunity to widen the horizon of individual information officers."

Mr Maude has already persuaded the members of the MIO (Meeting of Information Officers) Committee, directors of information and chief information officers who meet under his chairmanship in the Cabinet Office each Tuesday evening, of the benefits of greater career flexibility among the 1,714-strong corps of

government press and public relations officers.

The other hallmark of Mr Maude's stewardship of the government information services has been his cleansing of departmental press offices from any tint of party political propaganda. He has made it clear to press officers that their job is to provide factual information and to explain government policy.

He said: "Once they have begun to be used by ministers for anything approaching party political propaganda, disloyalty and credibility with the public is quickly affected.

The "watchdog", Mr Maude added, were himself, Mr Bernard Ingham, Chief Press Secretary to the Prime Minister, and Mr John Groves, Director-General of the Central Office of Information (COI).

The COI has standing instructions to screen all ministerial speeches it distributes and to ensure that those of a political nature are handled by party headquarters and not the COI.

'Queen of the Seas' yields up her treasures

By Ronald Faux

Two divers have quietly salvaged the valuable heart of one of Britain's most splendid liners, wrecked on a reef off Shetland nearly 66 years ago. The Oceanic, near sister of the Titanic, came to an ignominious end on the shoals of Foulis, near Foula, on September 7, 1914.

About 700ft long and 30,000 tons gross, she was built about the start of this century for a neophyte film. Her fittings, richly embellished in gold plate, marble and carved woodwork, brought her the description of the Hotel Cecil aboard. More than half a million people attended her launching at the Harland and Wolff yard in Belfast.

The "Queen of the Seas", as she became known, plied between Liverpool and New York until the outbreak of the first World War, when she became HMS Oceanic and was assigned to patrol duties as an armed merchant cruiser.

After only a fortnight in her new role, she was bound for 200m by the sea salvage company which also acquired the German Grand Fleet lying scuttled in Scapa Flow. A diver from Orkney, Robbie Robertson, tried to reach the remains of the Oceanic but his reports of 12 knot sides and extremely hazardous conditions ended any further hope of salvaging.

In 1973 two professional divers, Alec Crawford and Simon Martin, who specialized in clean fishing, read about the "undrivable wreck" and out of curiosity went on a calm day to the Shallows Reef.

They found valuable metal lying there and reached an agreement to salvage the wreck. Over the next seven years they picked at her remains, working only in calm summer spells between tides.

"We managed to put in 200 hours of actual diving and achieved a world record of salvaging from a vessel abandoned in open water. It was dangerous but fascinating," Mr Martin, a former journalist, said.

His theories are regarded in some medical quarters as of dubious scientific validity, although several research studies have been published pointing to the benefits of negative ions. Much work has also been done on raising the body's oxygen content, but results have been, according to one source, disappointing.

Mr Head has suggested a Medical Research Council investigation to test his claims.

They brought up the ship's propellers, 29 tons of solid bronze, each blade 10ft long. Two steam condensers yielded 70 tons of brass. The engine bearings contained large quantities of white metal.

Altogether 250 tons of copper, brass and bronze were retrieved with a total value of more than £100,000.

It was hard-won. Mr Crawford received severe internal injuries when he was crushed by some of the recovered scrap. One year the two divers started work too early in the season and their soft boat was struck by a violent squall off Foulis.

They had three anchors out, one of nine tons taken from the Oceanic, but were driven ashore and had to jump for their lives on to the rocks. Within minutes their boat was pounded to driftwood.

The story of one of the most stoical salvage operations is told by Simon Martin in *The Other Titanic*, which will be published on Thursday by David and Charles at £6.50.

Bombs found in 1940 German plane exploded

Crew of Dutch trawler land after fire

Twenty-two crewmen from a Dutch trawler, the Onderdiening, which caught fire after an engine-room explosion 23 miles off the Lizard, Cornwall, were landed yesterday at Falmouth. The chief engineer died in the fire.

The aircraft was being dug up by the Devon aircraft research and recovery team.

The aircraft crashed on November 9, 1940, killing the crew, while returning to Germany after a bombing raid on Liverpool.

The De Hoop later returned to the 327-ton trawler and towed it to Falmouth.

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They had three anchors out, one of nine tons taken from the Oceanic, but were driven ashore and had to jump for their lives on to the rocks. Within minutes their boat was pounded to driftwood.

The story of one of the most stoical salvage operations is told by Simon Martin in *The Other Titanic*, which will be published on Thursday by David and Charles at £6.50.

They brought up the ship's propellers, 29 tons of solid bronze, each blade 10ft long. Two steam condensers yielded 70 tons of brass. The engine bearings contained large quantities of white metal.

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Picture the scene:

On the one hand, a man born, bred and hardened in the West Riding, running his own small chemical company.

On the other, a man born, bred and hardened in West Byfleet, running a large investment company somewhere in the City.

The only thing they have in common is money.

One needs it. The other has popped up from the City for the day to see if he can help.

But it's going to take more than the knowledge of the finer points of finance.

Because, financing and also helping smaller businesses is a highly specialised and local affair.

And frankly, no one can help you better than ICFC.

That's because over the years we've dealt exclusively with small businessmen, so we reckon to understand them pretty well.

You'll see what we mean if you contact one of our offices dotted around the country.

Each one is run by a man who knows the area and the people like the back of his hand.

He will understand you and your problems so his advice will always be worth listening to.

More importantly, he may well be able to help you with long-term capital, anything from £5,000 to £2 million or more.

Not bad for a local lad. **ICFC**

"Hello Mr Chalk, I'm Cheese"



HOME NEWS

Farm welfare group changes sought after RSPCA dispute

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

Animal welfare activists decided yesterday to campaign for changes in the Government's Farm Animal Welfare Council, after a meeting on Saturday of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Attempts at the meeting to unseat half the RSPCA's governing council failed. Council members were attacked for forbidding two senior staff members of the society to accept an invitation to join the FAWC from Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture.

Mr Richard Ryder, a former chairman of the society, said yesterday: "It was a bad night. Nobody won and the animals lost." He had been prevented on Saturday from proposing that the society should appeal to Mr Walker to change the constitution of the FAWC.

Mr Ryder wanted Mr Walker to remove voting rights on the FAWC from those members of it who are associated with practices like factory farming, which the RSPCA opposes. "I think it will be difficult for Mr Walker to climb down, but I think he is big enough man to do so," Mr Ryder said. "The RSPCA has lost credibility over this and the FAWC has lost credibility."

Almost 1,400 animal-lovers

assembled in London on Saturday for a stay-in battle in the long struggle for control of the society. At stake was an annual income of more than £5m, protected from full tax rates by the charitable status of the RSPCA. Members showed that they love animals much more than they love each other.

Last year the RSPCA's council voted by 11 to 10 to forbid staff to join the FAWC. A motion on Saturday calling for the resignation of the 11 from the council failed to reach the 60 per cent vote needed.

While ostensibly about the FAWC, the angry five-hour debate was really about fundamental policy. Mr Ronald Burfield, former chief superintendent in the animal inspectorate of the society, said: "Today we have been subjected to the bawls and howls of extremists."

Mr Richard Corse, one of the 11, said amid loud cheers: "There is no motion to expel factory farmers from the RSPCA, is there?"

Miss Janet Fookes, Conservative MP for Plymouth, Drake, and chairman of the society, was asked on Saturday about the split at the meeting. "I would not regard it as causing any lasting damage whatever," she said.

Agriculture column, page 16

Custody deaths 'link with complaints'

By Our Political Editor

A tendency for a higher number of deaths in police custody to occur in areas where complaints of alleged police assault were higher than the national average is adduced today in support of a renewed call to the Home Secretary for a public inquiry into such deaths.

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham, West, claims a "significant and close connexion" between the two incidents and states in a letter to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, that "that makes a public inquiry 'imperative'".

Mr Meacher believes that such an inquiry ought to concern at least a sample of the 245 who so died between 1970 and 1979 in England and Wales. Mr Whitelaw is deferring a decision pending conclusion of the inquest into the death in police custody of Mr James Kelly, in Merseyside.

In reaching his complaint-death connection, Mr Meacher has correlated complaints alleg-

ing police assault per 10,000 arrests in 1978 with the 1970-79 deaths in custody per 10,000 arrests, which, he argues, is not statistically improper.

He finds nine police areas which exceed the national average of 34 assault complaints per 10,000 arrests, and in six of these the number of deaths in custody exceed the 2.7 average. The highest ratios, or Mr Meacher's comparison, were in London: the City of London, with 10.5 deaths and 72 complaints; and the Metropolitan area, with 8.3 deaths and 42 complaints; both are calculated on a rate of 10,000 arrests in 1978.

Mr Meacher, calling on Mr Whitelaw to avoid "further unreasonable delay" in publishing the full details of the 245 persons who died, also discloses new information he received from the Attorney General in a parliamentary written reply. It is that only 26 complaints were received after the 245 deaths, but that 18 of them alleged assault causing death. The Director of Public Prosecutions has not brought charges in any

case of assault, or if he cannot be found, the owner or occupier of the premises.

"This is easier said than done if the person opening the door denies it is giving the party and does not know who is," Mr White said.

The local authority's difficulty in those cases is finding the correct person on whom to serve a notice. The Act says that it should be served on the person responsible for the nuisance.

A person will perhaps pay

sance, or, if he cannot be found, the owner or occupier of the premises.

"This is easier said than done if the person opening the door denies it is giving the party and does not know who is," Mr White said.

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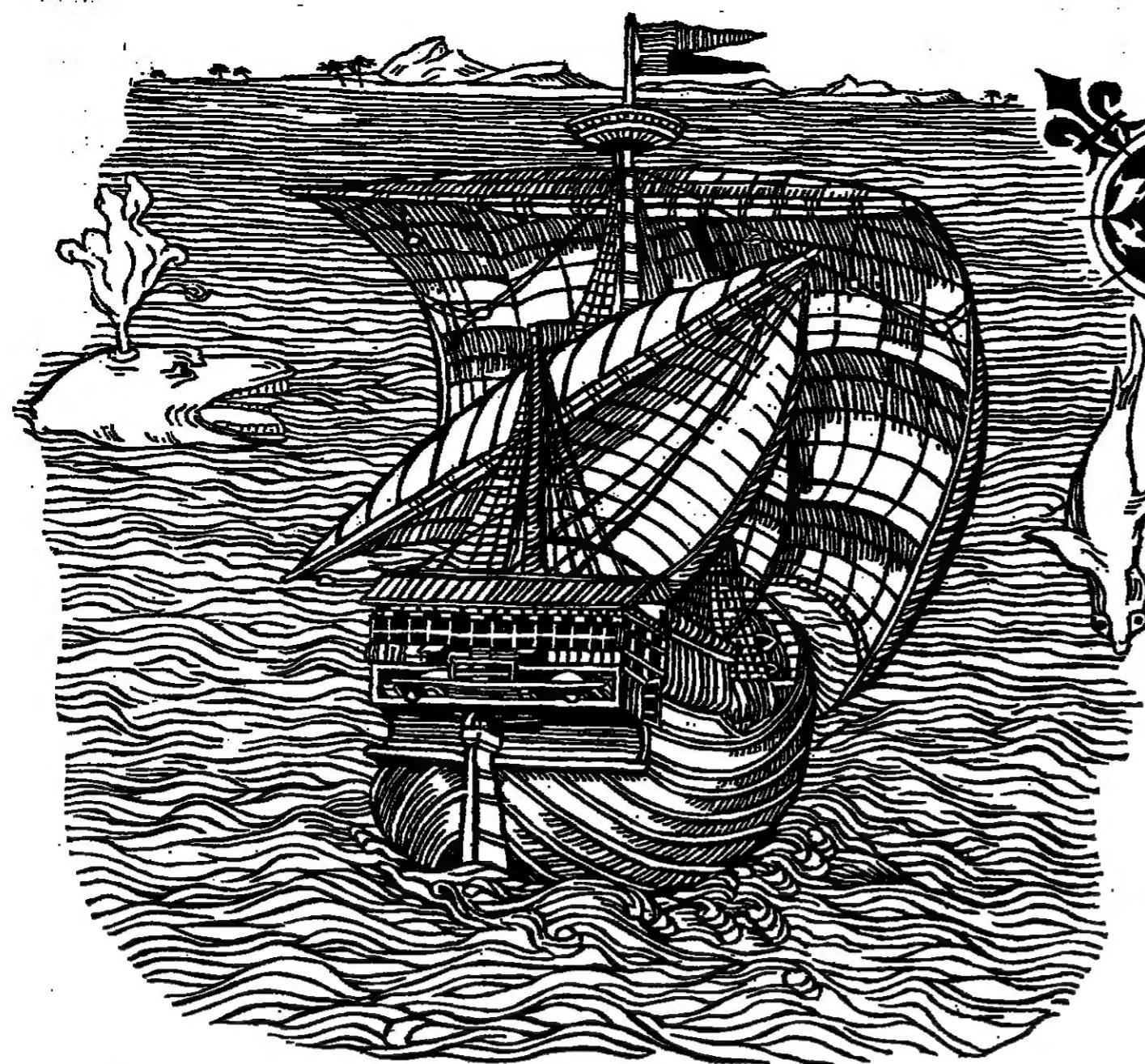
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In the sixteenth century the Spanish landed in the Philippines.

On April 8th the first of our new scheduled flights to the Philippines will land in Manila.

A journey of nearly 8,000 miles that will take our comfortable, wide-bodied TriStar approximately 16½ hours.

It's a far cry from 1521 when Magellan, during the first round the world voyage, decided to drop in and visit the locals.

Paradise Lost.

Magellan himself didn't last long in the Philippines.

The unfortunate fellow was killed while helping one Filipino group fight another.

But his discovery of the islands led to Spain moving in and setting up shop on a more permanent basis.

The Spaniards loved the place.

Especially the gold and silver they had seen the tribesmen wearing as jewellery.

Talk about gold fever.

They stayed on in the islands for the next 300 years. Right up until 1898 when they were finally given the heave-ho.

Uncle Sam in Paradise.

Spain's hasty exit was the result of a group of Filipinos who by now were tired of the Spanish ruling their roost.

They fought alongside the Americans in the Spanish-American war of 1898, to rid themselves of their unwanted guests.



But the delight of the Filipinos at saying goodbye to the Spaniards soon dissolved when they realized the Americans had taken a fancy to the islands.

And for the next few decades they had to share them with Uncle Sam.

To be fair though, the U.S. did help the Philippines develop into a modern nation.

They not only brought roads, railroads, schools and doctors to the islands. They also gave the people ideas about democracy.

Then, in 1941, right out of the blue, the Japanese called by.

Paradise Regained.

The men of Japan outstayed their welcome for 3 years. Until they were finally persuaded to leave by the Americans.

At last, in 1946, the U.S. gave the Filipinos the one thing they hadn't enjoyed for many a year.

Independence.

Looking at the Philippines today it's no wonder that so many people wanted the place for themselves.

This dazzling chain of 7,107 islands stretches for over 1,000 miles in tropical seas.

And is jam-packed full of wonders.



Old Castilian towns, stunning aquamarine life and a fantastic array of exotic fruits and vegetation.

Not to mention countless sun-drenched beaches. (It's enough to give you a sun tan just thinking about it.)

Known as the 'Last Great Bargain of the Orient' the Philippines is also a delight for people who are weary of V.A.T. and inflation.

Manila, especially, is a treasure-trove of shops selling goods at give-away prices.

All of which is tempting in the extreme.

If you've never been to the Philippines we'd like to show it to you in all its splendour.

If you've been and are going back, be it on business or pleasure, why not be our guests.

After all, if history is anything to go by, we're going to be in the islands for a long time to come.

Now it's our turn.



**British
airways**

We'll take more care of you.

SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT APPROVAL

WEST EUROPE

Nine conclude preferential trade accord with Yugoslavia to strengthen its non-aligned status

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Feb 24

After more than two years of negotiations, the EEC and Yugoslavia put their relations on a new footing for the next end by concluding a preferential trading agreement designed to improve Yugoslavia's economic health and reinforce its ability to defend its non-aligned status against possible Soviet interference.

The agreement is to be finalised tomorrow by Herr Wilhelm Esterkamp, the EEC Commissioner for External Affairs, who represented the Nine at the negotiations, and Mr Stojan Aranovic, the Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Trade.

The political and financial provisions of the agreement will run for five years from the date of its entry into force, which may not be for several months because of the need to complete ratification and signature procedures in Yugoslavia and EEC member states.

To underline the political importance of the EEC attaches to the agreement, Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the European Commission, will visit Belgrade on Thursday for talks with Yugoslav leaders.

Centrists take an independent line

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 24

"The hour of the Centre has come", according to M Jean Lecanuet, who was duly reelected president of the Centre des Démocrates Sociaux (CDS) at their third national congress in Strasbourg over the weekend.

With 2,500 delegates, the congress was larger and somewhat livelier than had been expected. M Lecanuet made it clear that he did not see the role of the CDS as a docile member of the Union pour la Démocratie Française, a coalition which provides the most loyal support for the Government.

Indeed the conference as a whole took a critical view of the Government's performance internationally and deplored the lack of firmness shown by France towards the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

One motion was passed in favour of a French boycott of the Moscow Olympics and M Pierre Bernard-Raymond, junior Foreign Minister, was treated to some catcalls when he rose to speak.

He appealed to the delegates, however, when he said that France was not prepared to maintain détente at whatever cost. "The Soviet Union must show its own attachment to détente, notably in withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan," he said.

The European proposal of neutralising Afghanistan, he said, left the door open to a solution even if it was "less exciting for the soul and less reassuring for public opinion than a firm position".

M Lecanuet said that despite France's reaction to the international situation they would continue to support President Giscard d'Estaing and all hope that he would stand for the presidency again next year. In his view, the French did not want to vote for a candidate who stood for a party but for one who stood for France. M Lecanuet was defeated by General de Gaulle in the 1965 election.

At the same time M Lecanuet defended the continuing existence of the CDS rather than seeing it merged within the UDF. France was not a country which wanted big political groups, he said, because these tended to fragment.

This led him to the view that his party was the natural one for disaffected Socialists who, standing as it did to the left of centre of the government parties. In the months to come it seems clear that the CDS will be seeking to pick up the votes of those Socialists who may have become disillusioned by the continuing squabbles within their party.

Iraq postpones visit by Dutch minister

From Our Own Correspondent

Amsterdam, Feb 24

Iraq yesterday postponed indefinitely a visit by Mr Christoph van der Klaauw, the Dutch Foreign Minister, only to leave the Hague when he was due to leave for Baghdad.

The Minister was told by Mr Tariq Abu Khalil, the Iraqi Ambassador, that the British writer's clarification of the Dutch Government's role in the talks to be held later this week in The Hague between the United States, Israel and Egypt on Palestinian autonomy.

According to Mr van der Klaauw, Iraq mistakenly believed that the talks were being held "under the wings of the Dutch Government". He had told the Foreign Minister that the Netherlands had done no more than extend traditional hospitality when the United States asked if the talks could be held in The Hague. Apart from security arrangements, the Netherlands would not be involved.

Dangerous play

Münster, Feb 24. Forty-five children were given urgent medical treatment in this north German city after playing with a deadly herbicide stolen from a private garden shed.

The turning point in the negotiations came last month when EEC foreign ministers took a political decision to break the logjam that had been holding up agreement with the Yugoslavs and instructed their representatives in the EEC to draw up a new and more generous negotiating mandate for the European Commission.

This has produced a big trade deficit with the West, and particularly with the EEC, which supplies Yugoslavia not only with capital goods and modern technology, but also with some of the raw materials needed by its burgeoning industries. It is estimated that last year Yugoslavia had a trade deficit with the Community of close to £1,500m.

The new agreement will grant Yugoslavia industrial exports duty-free entry to the EEC with the exception of a list of just under 30 "sensitive" products, which will remain subject to quantitative limits.

Improved access will also be granted to Yugoslav wine, tobacco and beef.

In addition, the Nine will make £250m (£108m) available to Yugoslavia over five years in the form of low-interest loans from the European Investment Bank to finance development projects.

Yugoslavia depends heavily on trade with Western Europe. It has been struggling to maintain a relatively high level of industrial growth in the teeth of full social security benefits.

Commission in tussle over sales to Russia

From Our Own Correspondent

Brussels, Feb 24

An intriguing constitutional tussle, in which the European Commission is being slowly squeezed between the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, is developing over the issue of exporting surplus EEC butter to Russia.

The untenable dilemma of Mr Roy Jenkins, the Commission's president, is that he has been given diametrically opposed instructions on what to do about this butter set by the other two institutions, each of which expects the Commission to do its bidding to the letter.

Meeting in the aftermath of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan last month, EEC foreign ministers agreed that, while it would be wrong to increase food exports to the Soviet Union to fill any gaps in Russian supplies caused by American sanctions, "traditional" trade flows should none the less be maintained.

That remains the policy of member states. At its last session earlier this month, however, the European Parliament voted in favour of a resolution calling for a total ban on subsidised food exports to the Soviet Union, a position totally irreconcilable with that taken by national governments.

Under the new tender system EEC exporters can make offers for butter in the Community's surplus stockpiles. The Commission will only sell above a minimum price, though this will be well below the EEC's internal price.

What is at stake is the right to choose the "new arrivals".

Many MEPs accept that the Commission is doing what it can about butter exports within the limits set by the Council of Ministers. Others agree with the French and Irish governments that the Commission has exceeded its powers by controlling these exports too strictly.

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OVERSEAS

Thunderous relic of British Raj ready to pull troop train to Khyber Pass

Pakistan relies on a 60-year-old locomotive

From Robert Fisk
Landi Kotal
North West Frontier
Feb 24

At 8.30 in the morning Mohamed Salim Khan, the engine driver—a brick and mustachioed Pathan with a rope on his head and 18 years' experience with Pakistan State Railways under his arm, wiped his oil cloth over the firebox of his 60-year-old steam engine knowingly tapped the oil lubricator—*a Wakefield patent made in London EC4*—and took locomotive Number 2511 out of Peshawar's hot and dusty railway station en route for the Khyber Pass.

Every schoolboy would love Number 2511. She has six driving wheels, a footplate with a lid like a teapot, a rusting boiler under constant repair, a squadron of gaskets that leak steam and a footplate that brews oil, smoke and freshly-brewed tea.

She makes a noise like thunder and is one of the last living relics of British imperial India.

An unpleasant coincidence of history, she has also become a vital piece of machinery along Pakistan's nervous western frontier. For if the Russians ever threaten to enter the Khyber from Afghanistan, the Pakistan army plans to use Number 2511 and her sister locomotive to pull its troops up to the border.

The Ministry of Defence in Islamabad, therefore, pays for the upkeep of the 36 miles of

track and subsidizes Mr Khan's weekly excursions to the fortress of Landi Kotal.

Civil servants' families take advantage of the day's outing for their medical first class return of 50p.

Number 2511 stops the grass growing over the permanent way and her attendant lords with their oil lamps and green flags prevent the tribesmen from building their mud-walled houses next to the 18 tunnels which puncture the precipitous cliff-face up the pass.

Number 2511 certainly needs a subsidy. No one seems to buy any tickets, bare-footed farm boys jump on the swaying second class green and cream carriage when the train is chuntering its way in black smoke through villages, and the footplate—quite apart from *The Times* correspondent today—contained a minimum of three engine drivers and two firemen.

Being an old and exclusive locomotive, however, Number 2511 has her rules.

They are invented by Pakistani Railways and Mr Khan knows them all by heart.

"Every year," he said, "we have to repair this engine. We have to change the wheels but the real problem is to watch the boiler which is very important. It is a rule that we look at it every year."

"This is also a one-in-33 gradient, the steepest of kind in the world. The whole line from Jamud Fort to Landi Kotal is a heavy gradient line but..."

Perhaps it was the steam released by the whistle which prompted this curious phenomenon since Mr Khan was constantly forced to tug a thin and broken piece of wire above the firebox which made the engine wall. Buffaloes, goats, sheep, children and old men had a habit of walking over the track just in front of Number 2511 when she was about to enter a tunnel.

As she moved higher up the mountains, a sharp, cold mountain breeze snapped across the footplate. Mr Khan was enthusiastic about his work.

"Of course I like driving this train," he shouted, "most of our train drivers in Rawalpindi are allowed to work on this track but..."

Why did Mr Khan really enjoy driving this great beast? "It is a duty," he replied, "it is a real duty". The British would have thought so too when Number 2511 was pulling the Dorsetshires, the Cheshire and the Prince of Wales' own regiments up to Landi Kotal. Sic gloria non transit.

Bur Number 2511 plunged into a tunnel which battered the sound of her engine into our ear drums and smothered the crew in a darkness that was lit only by the flaring oil-burning furnace.

At the tunnel's end, the glorious locomotive performed so sharp a corner above so sheer a precipice of rock hundreds of feet above a spinning river that two drivers and a fireman had to catch the fittings and Mr Khan was a little too busy to remember what he had been talking about.

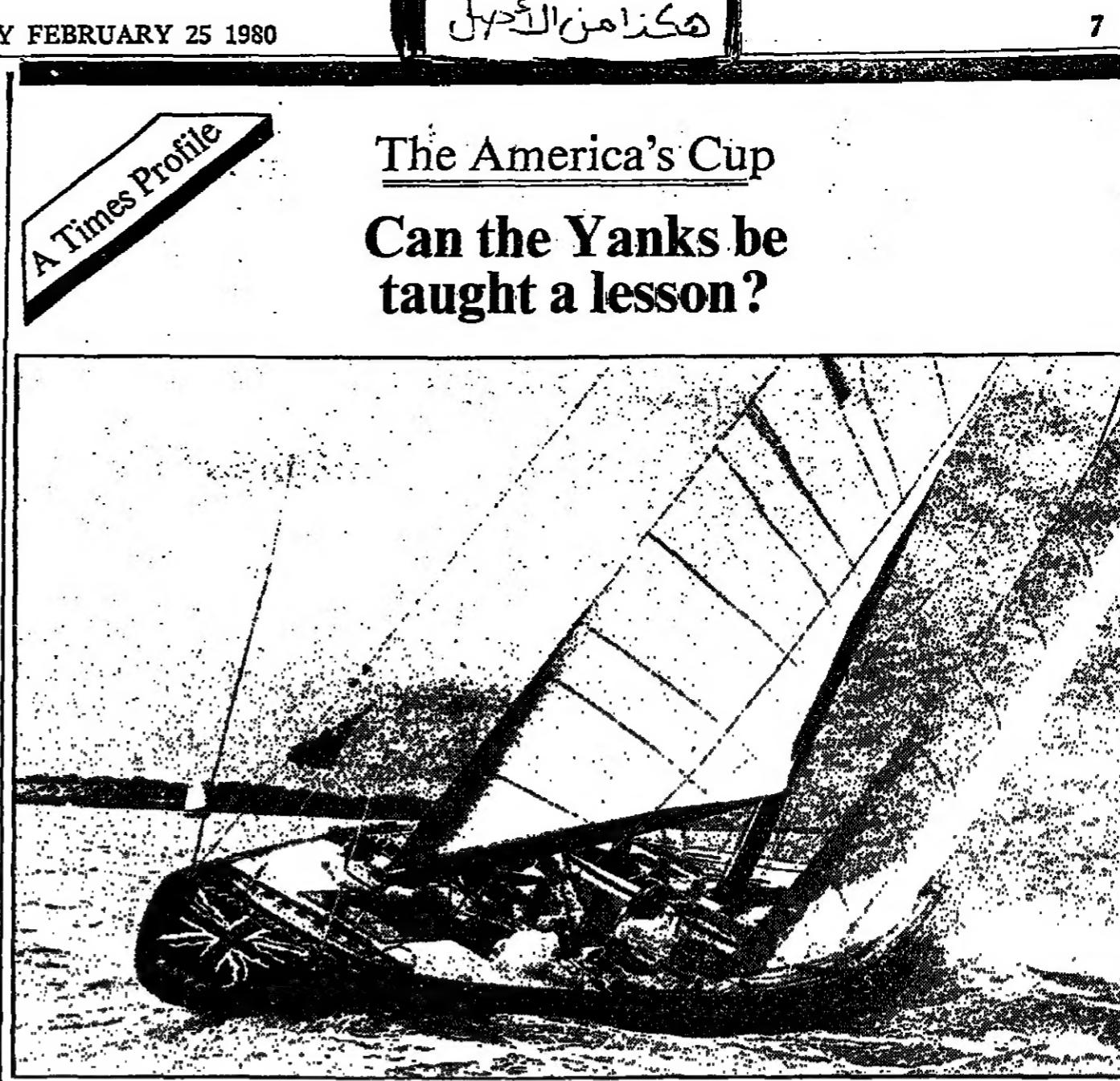
There were a few down gradients but Number 2511 and her sister had to hammer their way the full 3,000ft up the mountain with little respite. There was, Mr Khan pointed out later with the bleak logic of an engine driver, no problem for big engine. She was, after all, an SGS class slow goods service locomotive which was baffling but probably true.

Number 2511 fumed into Landi Kotal three minutes late with the blue mountains of Afghanistan shimmering on the western horizon. She unhooked her two carriages and one truck and shunted about rather aimlessly.

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Years round the fight for the America's Cup is like a break-through?



Lionheart, Britain's hope for the America's Cup: is she a breakthrough?

This time round the fight for the America's Cup will be the best. Those qualities which characterize remarkable sporting contests—a salting of personal and national pride, a certain needle, an aching to settle a score—are here in larger form than they have ever been in the 129-year pursuit of yachting's Ashes.

Years of rivalry make this much more than a simple yachting match, a trial of design, gear, skill, guile and experience. The personalities of the cup's questers have always played a colourful part in the drama. And it is the same this time: steadily growing tension and competitive edge are rooted in the determination of successful businessmen, men used to having their own way and still smarting from defeats in previous cup attempts. They long to reach those Yanks a lesson.

For their part, the Americans, who have never lost the cup, are determined that no Limey, Aussie, Frenchman or Swede, will get it now.

During August they will watch closely, and perhaps a shade imperiously, as *Lionheart* (Britain), *Sverige III* (France), *Sverige* (Sweden) and *Australia* (Australia) fight their way through the eliminating races for the privilege of taking on the Americans in the best-of-seven match for the cup off Rhode Island in September.

It will be the twenty-fourth challenge for the vulgar bulbous silver ewer the schooner *America* won in a race around the Isle of Wight in 1851, leaving a bruise on the British ego which throbs still. If *Lionheart* wins the preliminary races she will be making the eighteenth British challenge.

The closing of air corridors over the Aegean for all Greek domestic flights, had reduced to a minimum air communications between Greece and Turkey, as flights from Athens to Istanbul, a distance covered in 50 minutes had to be diverted by way of Bulgaria taking one hour 40 minutes.

Greek and foreign airlines in Athens said today they had not yet had time to consider the resumption of direct flights between the two countries.

Opposition parties in both Greece and Turkey are viewing these sudden developments with suspicion. In Turkey the

Government has been accused of giving in to Western pressures in exchange for large-scale economic and military aid. In Greece, opposition leaders demand the Turkish gesture and the Greek response as part of an American play to bring about Greece's reintegration into Nato.

A permanent settlement of the Greek-Turkish dispute over the Aegean air space would certainly allay the mutual suspicions that block agreement on the return of Greece to Nato's integrated military structure.

US warns El Salvador rightists against coup

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Feb 24

The United States, which fears that a right-wing coup in the Central American state of El Salvador is imminent, has taken the unusual course of issuing a public warning against such a move.

A State Department spokesman told reporters on Friday that the Administration will do all it can to any new regime in El Salvador which fails to respect human rights and frustrates much-needed reforms in the country.

Political killed: The latest victim of El Salvador's violence was Señor Mario Zamora Rivas, the Attorney-General, who was killed by unidentified gunmen in his home in San Salvador.

The spokesman added that the existing Government, which consists of civilians and members of the armed forces, offers the "best chance" of addressing the concerns of a left-wing extremist group.

Only 30 of them have been sentenced; the others have been awaiting trial for up to five years.

"My husband was arrested by the police one evening together with several of his relations, including a boy. He had known it was coming. His brother Sandro, an anthropologist at Santiago University, had gone underground five months earlier and was known to have organized at least one clandestine group of resistors to the regime.

"A law was passed last year making it a crime not to inform on known political activists, even close relatives."

"They were all tortured for information about Sandro. My husband was strapped to a metal frame and had electric shocks sent through him. The veins in his arm were split open and bled from the injections they gave him. They broke his ribs and he bleeds constantly now from internal injuries.

"The boy was not given electric shocks. He was beaten and shown his mother hanging naked from the ceiling, while she was told that her son would be tortured unless she talked."

No one talked. They were not in position to give information, as no one knew where Sandro was.

"My husband has still not been tried. I have been allowed to visit him twice a week except during a period of 20 days last year when he was held in solitary confinement on bread and water, in a dark in a cell one metre by one metre, for having protested that the political prisoners were given no status as such."

"When I go and see him I take him whatever I can: the food inside is often bad, purid fish, vegetable peelings. When I leave I am stripped, harassed, searched."

Since her husband's arrest, Sonia López has not been allowed to work. She lives on what her family can give her and the little money she gets from selling jewelry her husband makes in jail. The Vicaria de la Solidaridad, the human rights organization of the Roman Catholic church in Chile, has managed to get permission for some of the political prisoners to work.

López is not their real name. Sonia fears that, should she be identified, she will not be allowed back to Chile and that her husband might be singled out for fresh torture.

She has come, she says, not simply to describe, but to warn all those interested in the fate of Chilean political prisoners that their situation may worsen at any time.

"Last November there were sudden raids on the homes of anyone with any political interests. Two thousand people were arrested; most were released after being harassed and beaten up."

"Then a mutiny broke out among common criminals in another jail and the Ministry of Defence accused the political prisoners of inciting them. We believe repression is going to get worse."

Prisoners of conscience



Chile

By Caroline Moorehead

Sonia López was 19 when her husband Juan was arrested in the autumn of 1978. She came to London last week on behalf of the families of 55 political prisoners held in Santiago jail to describe the conditions under which they are being kept and the tortures to which they are submitted.

Only 30 of them have been sentenced; the others have been awaiting trial for up to five years.

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Thai opposition musters anti-government votes

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok, Feb 24

Parliamentary opponents of the Thai Government claim they are close to having enough votes to overthrow General Kriangsak Chamlong, the Prime Minister.

A vote on a no-confidence motion is expected during a special session of Parliament opening on Friday.

In a rare speech about economic policy, General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Army commander in chief and Defence Minister who is regarded as his most likely successor,

General Kriangsak said he had no conflict with General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Army commander in chief and Defence Minister who is regarded as his most likely successor.

Opposition leaders have said they would accept either General Prem or General Seo Nakorn, the supreme commander and a Deputy Prime Minister, as head of a new government.

The heaviest clashes occurred near the Khmer Rouge stronghold at Phnom Malai, south of Aranyaprathet.

There is also daily skirmishing between Vietnamese troops and anti-Communist "Free Khmers" on the border north of Aranyaprathet.

Many Vietnamese and troops of the Heng Samrin regime have gathered between six and 10 miles from the Thai border, according to Lieutenant-General Son Ketsap, chief of the Thai information centre.

Three to die for killing children

Bangkok, Feb 24.—A court in the Central African Republic sentenced three men to death last night for their part in killings ordered by the deposed Emperor Jean-Bédeil Bokassa.

The three, including a former captain in the Imperial Guard Joseph Mokoa, were found guilty of murdering schoolchildren last year.

10,000 see execution

Peking, Feb 24.—A man who hacked to death his neighbour and their eight-year-old son with an axe was executed in front of 10,000 people near Swatow, South China.

Aegean air space reopens to all flights

From Mario Modiano
Athens

In a move to reinforce the international flights today after a breakthrough in the Greek-Turkish dispute over air traffic control in the region which lasted nearly six years.

On Friday, Turkey withdrew unilaterally its claim for the control of air traffic over the eastern half of the Aegean Sea, an area of Greek responsibility under international arrangements.

Greece responded yesterday by revoking its civil aviation notice of 1974 which declared the Aegean unsafe and banned all flights except its own.

Mr George Rallis, the Greek Foreign Minister, expressed satisfaction over this unexpected development.

The closing of air corridors over the Aegean for all Greek domestic flights, had reduced to a minimum air communications between Greece and Turkey, as flights from Athens to Istanbul, a distance covered in 50 minutes had to be diverted by way of Bulgaria taking one hour 40 minutes.

Greek and foreign airlines in Athens said today they had not yet had time to consider the resumption of direct flights between the two countries.

Opposition parties in both Greece and Turkey are viewing these sudden developments with suspicion. In Turkey the

Government has been accused of giving in to Western pressures in exchange for large-scale economic and military aid. In Greece, opposition leaders demand the Turkish gesture and the Greek response as part of an American play to bring about Greece's reintegration into Nato since November.

A permanent settlement of the Greek-Turkish dispute over the Aegean air space would certainly allay the mutual suspicions that block agreement on the return of Greece to Nato's integrated military structure.

Mr Trudeau to take over as Premier on March 3

The swearing-in ceremony will take place just under nine months from the date of Mr Clark's swearing-in after defeating Mr Trudeau in the election of May 22 last year.

Mr Trudeau said he was considering recalling Parliament before the end of March, but he doubted that there would be enough time for the necessary preparatory work before then. In that case, he would summon the next session of Parliament just after Easter, which falls on April 6—U.P.L.

He will be settled on March 3," Mr Trudeau told reporters before his speech.

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SPORT

Football

Francis takes flight as he reclaims his long-lost freedom

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent

KEEGAN says there are not many British footballers whose arrival in the penalty area coincides with a sudden increase in the pulse-rate of the spectator. That is not the case with Francis. After five years of service in the English team he has reasserted the point, for although a regular scorer, he is hardly a Miller, Greaves, or Law, and for Liverpool he would be in partnership with Dalglish. One of the few exceptions should be Francis, whose opportunities have been restricted by Nottingham Forest's tactical decision to use him as midfield.

For a go forward against Manchester City on Saturday, Francis scored three goals for the first time since he was bought by Elm. From his youthful days at Birmingham City where he won a reputation for shooting stilettoes, he has always been anxious to watch as the penetrators of the penalty area. In his last full season at Birmingham, he scored 27 goals and was the first division's second most prolific scorer behind Latchford.

Available to Brian Clough would sound so much more once he proved goal-scoring and play him in midfield, but for most managers the search for finishers continues to inflate the transfer market and the size of the headlines devoted to avatars who are regularly sent the ball from five yards. Thus another established scorer, Wallace of Coventry City, who obtained 15 goals last season, will be the subject of this week's bidding now that he has added for a transfer and who has been offered an example in determination.

Fairclough has been a victim rather than a product of Liverpool's deep resources. He made only three League appearances last season, and despite scoring seven goals in his last five matches, he is still unsure of a future place in the world he values. Mike Paisley is the unlikely dropping of Johnson altogether, or perhaps countering one of his valuable midfield players. On Saturday Johnson did not play against Ipswich Town, whose 1-1 draw took them into third place after a remarkable revival in

which they have not been beaten in 15 matches, a club record.

Fairclough being the Liverpool survivor, the debris over his position continues. Francis has taken his chance, but Francis before Woodcock's departure to Germany allowed him a permanent place in the forward line. Fairclough has had his best opportunities when they are offered to him, though on the approach road to Forest's next European Cup tie against Dynamo Berlin on Wednesday night, Bremner has given a fourth to place Manchester City in the clutches of relegation, along with Everton, who are also proving that money is not everything.

The point that Liverpool dropped restored an element of uncertainty to the championship, because although they have a match in hand, their lead over Manchester United is only two points. But United's chances remain more mathematical than real, given their 4-0 victory over Bristol City at Old Trafford was matched with the quality of their play de-

Bristol City must be an infuriating loan in support. Even a television abridged highlights approach work showed that they were capable of attractive football, but their finishing was again indifferent. Unfortunately, they cannot afford to waste and neither can they afford to miss Gordon Jordan, with two for United offered an example in determination.

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Stick in the mud: Cooper stops McDermott's penalty.

May could be merrier than usual this year

By Stuart Jones

Ipswich 1 Ipswich 1

As though it had been rehearsed, Anfield's red curtain ruse was repeated, the visitors held their breath, and the spectators' complacency, though interest would have died before the final twist.

Ipswich Town, wearing a blue cloak of confidence, wrote themselves back into the script as well as into their club's history book by taking their unbeaten run to 15.

Fairclough started it all. Dalglish, staying deaf to gain freedom, spotted his burst across the area. Fairclough ran on to the pace and casually stroked it past Cooper. It was his second goal in 11 days. The third substitute had his big chance with embarrassing ease, he missed two more chances in the first 10 minutes with the same ease. Unpredictable is Fairclough.

Predictable, however, was the end. Although Ipswich rarely had five minutes from which they began slowly to remember their own patterns instead of concentrating on Liverpool's. There lay the plot because McDermott, in his 3-1 home win over Leicester City, who were one of the four leading clubs to lose, Chelsea collapsed 3-0 at Bristol Rovers where two spectators were stabbed and many others taken to hospital.

At a moment when rugby is finally ridding itself of criticism for the violence of some of its players, football continues to inflict harm upon itself by the behaviour of some of its younger players. On one side of the touchline or the other and in both games, the minority still offend the enjoyment of the majority.

Rugby Union

Dodge gives Leicester the vision of another cup win

By Peter West

Rugby Correspondent

Bath 17 Leicester 17

Even at The Reddings on Saturday, when the holders, Leicester, beat Moseley in the second round of the John Player Cup, old names dispel an atmosphere of gloom. It will be a very good side to stop them winning the trophy again. Had they taken all their chances when playing down the slope, they would have been rewarded with a bonus point instead of leading by a modest four points.

In the third quarter, they had to withstand a revival by the Moseley forward, with Gifford, a tall and lean, and Gifford threatening danger from the back. But Leicester finished as they had begun, in confidence and style, to win by a drop goal, two penalty points and tries to a penalty try.

In the first half, on a sunny, spring-like afternoon, Leicester made light of the tacky going to produce an impressive broad of the ball, with the ball held an early edge. The line-out, however, was not Joyce, produced unexpected dividends.

There was an unselfish, admirably-judged performance by Cuthbertson, and, of course, the star of the show was Dodge. Strength on the break, movement of the

ball (so often unobtrusively effective), tactical kicking, support play, solid and knowledgeable defence, and above all, perhaps, a vision of the game which determines the right decisions. All these facets were threaded together to produce as good an all-round performance by a centre as I have seen this season.

Any doubts the England selectors may have had in regard to Cuthbertson in the team to play Scotland, which will be announced tomorrow morning, would have been dispelled by their representative, Moseley, who had an excellent game.

Leicester's performance was important in the longer term, it was a performance by Dodge that would have impressed the Lions selectors, too.

Had everything gone right for Cuthbertson, their lead might have been something between 15 and 20 points. Hare failed with two penalties and a conversion all within his compass from his more fancied side of the ball, and Gifford, a tall and lean, put a typical drop shot behind a scrum, sealing the final score.

Forres meanwhile had landed an early penalty for Moseley, for whom their flanker, Warren, now seized a try when Hare fumbled a line-out. That made it 10-10 to Leicester, who had a try from Cuthbertson, but when his opponents were expecting him to drop for goal, Leicester's last chance was blown. Hare promised a very kickable penalty and then Cuthbertson with a typical drop shot behind a scrum, sealed the final score.

There was a try from Dodge, a powerfully through the middle, and an inside pass by the unselfish

Coventry are caught on the wrong tack

By Richard Streeton

By far the closest finish among Saturday's eight John Player second-round matches came at Coventry where Gloucester won 10-9 with a freak dropped goal in the fourth minute of injury time. From a line-out between the 22 and 10-metre line, Brian Russell the Gloucester stand-off, misfired what was the game's last kick. The ball still flew Jewish to hit both posts and somehow went over the crossbar, according to John Butler, a Coventry official. Coventry's forwards were just managing to hold out against late Gloucester pressure before Russell's dramatic score.

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There were other irritations for Coventry, too, with an anonymous telephone call before the start stating that carpet racks had been scattered on the pitch. Supporters later ran away without being caught after he threw some broken glass on the field. There was no obvious explanation for these incidents, and they were believed to be aimed at the visiting supporters of the South African Barbarians to Coundon Road last October.

Harlequins, doing 23-6 win at Nottingham, were the round's biggest winners. They played well, with a fine line-out and heavy pitch. Bushell landed two good penalty goals early on and Nottingham 13-0 down at half-time, gradually ran out of steam. Nottingham often attempted the ambitious footwork but handling mistakes and good kicking kept them in check.

Rosslyn Park, London Scottish and London Irish also won, and low odds would surely have been offered at Chelmsford against London providing half the teams is the third round.

Victory took London Irish into the last eight for the first time. Gosforth and Rosslyn Park are in fifth, Chelmsford and Leicestershire for the fourth. No one seems to have already established a definite cup tradition.

In the Welsh Cup, sponsored by Scheweppes, Bridgend, the holders, had a pleasant surprise of Saturday's fourth round when, after the match was drawn on a decision by the referee not to award the Welsh a penalty when Greg Rees broke through the defences with a free kick, the Welsh and the my-line looming. Bridgend's Clive Jones had been penalised for deliberately holding on in defence; now a Park hand intercepted the pass from Rees to Rees and, the precedent having been established, it looked a good case for a penalty in a very difficult position. None came, and a quick drop goal from a drop-out was only three points.

Had Killen's kickings been more predictable, Liverpool could have won. Of the four penalty points he scored, three were from the touchline, but in one case he missed three others from easier positions. This season Killen has scored 27 points.

Defeat, however, would have been an injustice to Bath. Their performance, like Liverpool's, was predictable, Liverpool's powerful pack, and the tenacity of their defence, against the England half, created openings for the gifted three-quarter line. These included Beese, who gained three England caps when he played for Liverpool and Wynter, who was an international when he played for Bedford. Waterman, the tall full-back, in Oxford Blue in 1974, joined readily and smoothly in attack.

Ipswich, for example, has defied reason itself. They entertained Liverpool on October 13 last year and lost 2-1, a result which left them rooted to the foot of the table. They are third and looking over at Europe for the sixth time in six years.

It was a curious game. In a frenetic first half, when all the points were scored, neither side seemed to have any coherent plan; yet, almost every time either the Park or the Welsh visited the opposition's 22, they scored.

A try scored by Bath in the first few minutes set the stage for non-stop action until, in a grand finale, Trick scored the try in injury time which put victory beyond Liverpool's reach. Between these two sides, achievement Liverpool were never so far behind that they lost hope; the half-time margin was only three points.

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Defeat, however, would have been an injustice to Bath. Their performance, like Liverpool's, was predictable, Liverpool's powerful pack, and the tenacity of their defence, against the England half, created openings for the gifted three-quarter line. These included Beese, who gained three England caps when he played for Liverpool and Wynter, who was an international when he played for Bedford. Waterman, the tall full-back, in Oxford Blue in 1974, joined readily and smoothly in attack.

Ipswich, for example, has defied reason itself. They entertained Liverpool on October 13 last year and lost 2-1, a result which left them rooted to the foot of the table. They are third and looking over at Europe for the sixth time in six years.

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Late try does the trick

By Tom Cooban

Bath 19 Leicester 19

The power Bath showed in defeating Liverpool by a goal, a try, a drop and two penalty goals to four penalty goals in the second half was not enough to stop Leicester from winning the John Player Cup.

Leicester had a try from Dodge, a powerfully through the middle, and an inside pass by the unselfish

Another unpalatable result for Welsh to swallow

By David Hands

London Welsh 16 Rosslyn Pt 16

February has not been kind to Welshmen in south-west London. Six days ago Wales bit the bullet as they went down by one point to England on May 5 in an interesting prospect. Wolverhampton Wanderers, Hughes among them, will be uncomfortable hosts tomorrow and for Saturday, the Welsh will be in their element.

It was a superbly intelligent run by Ripley, quite the best of the season, and the second try, when the ball was in the Welsh's half, was a good case for a penalty in a very difficult position. None came, and a superbly timed drop goal in the last minute was just wide, which was not to be their day.

Both the tries came in the first 10 minutes after Beeson had kicked a simple penalty in the first minute as the Welsh dropped out with easy freedom. Ripley hoisted on a loose ball from halfway and no one except Tiddy seemed interested in chasing it, the wing was only three points.

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Public and Educational Appointments

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE OF MINING AND MINERAL ENGINEERING, SCHOOL OF MINES, TARKWA, GHANA

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the following posts at the University of Science and Technology School of Mines, Tarkwa, Ghana.

POSTS:

1. Lecturers in Electrical Engineering (Power Production)
2. Lecturer in Electronic Engineering

QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicants must have a good first degree and post-graduate qualifications (M.Sc. and/or Ph.D.) in Electrical Engineering (Power Production) and Electronic Engineering. They must have had at least (4) four years' teaching/industrial experience after their first degree.

SALARY:

In appropriate cases tax-free British Government subsidies in range £3,504-£6,018 depending on the applicants' marital status may be paid to successful candidates. Other benefits include free passages, free medical attention and subsidised accommodation.

Application forms are obtainable from the Overseas Representative (Ref. IMRE), Universities of Ghana Office, 16 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0AG to whom the completed forms should be returned not later than 20 March, 1980.

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University of London

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Applications are invited for the post of Secretary of the School with effect from 1 January 1981. The Secretary is the chief administrative officer and is responsible to the Governing Body for matters relating to the administration of the School, carrying out the duties under the general supervision of the Director. All other administrative officers are responsible to the Secretary. Applicants should hold a good honours degree of a United Kingdom university (or an equivalent qualification) and should have extensive administrative experience, preferably including administrative experience in a United Kingdom university. The post is a Grade IV post on the national administrative salary grade; the present minimum salary for this grade is £12,824 per annum. London Allowance (currently at the rate of £740 per annum) is payable in addition to salary. Membership of the University's Superannuation Scheme will be compulsory. Annual holiday entitlement of 30 working days exclusive of public holidays and days when the School is closed. Further particulars and application forms are obtainable from The Director, School of Oriental and African Studies, Melet Street, London WC1E 7HP. Applications in sealed envelopes bearing the word 'Secretary' in the bottom left hand corner must reach him not later than Friday 11 April 1980.

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1. Topic: Control of cell division—Professor A. H. Heath. Experience in cell biology and genetics would be an advantage.

2. Topic: Topology, Mathematics—Professor A. N. H. Huxley. Experience in algebraic topology and knot theory would be an advantage.

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99. Topic:

Nicholas Ashford on an election in which everybody has been pointing their finger at everyone else and where the real issues have been largely ignored

Rhodesia: who can cry 'foul' the loudest?

All in all it has been a dismal election campaign. The promises contained in the various party election manifestos show a new, fair, non-racial Zimbabwe would rise from the ashes of the old, white-dominated Rhodesia seem almost to have been forgotten. Instead party leaders seem to have been concentrating on who can cry "foul" the loudest.

There has been one overriding issue during this election campaign and that has been the question of "intimidation". Bishop Abel Muzorewa's UANC has pointed its finger at Mr Robert Mugabe's ZANU (PF), accusing it of maintaining a network of "unconventional guerrillas" and "mujahid" (young assistants) in the tribal trust lands (TTLs) which has prevented other parties from campaigning in those areas. Mr Mugabe has pointed his finger right back at Bishop Muzorewa, alleging that "UANC auxiliaries" have been forcing people at gunpoint to support the UANC. Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Patriotic Front, has complained (less stridently than others) that his party has come under pressure both from its former ally in the Patriotic Front guerrilla alliance and from the auxiliaries.

For their part Rhodesia's temporary British administrators, who are not without their own preferences—have laid most of the blame at Mr Mugabe's door. "You have a situation here where eight black parties are trying to carry out a political campaign and one is conducting a para-military exercise," said one British adviser.

A degree of intimidation was inevitable given Rhodesia's recent history of conflict and the size of the prize which is at stake in this election. In fact the level of violence in much of the country has remained remarkably low. Despite the publicity given to bomb attacks on Salisbury churches and against Mr Mugabe, there have been relatively few acts of violence against political leaders—which is perhaps surprising bearing in mind that these leaders were fighting each other just a couple of months ago.

Taken as a whole the intimidation appears to have been psychological rather than physical. On the ZANU (PF) side this has involved propagating the insidious message that the war will continue unless Mr Mugabe wins. This is a compelling threat for people who are desperate for peace.

As for the UANC, the party has been assisted by the auxiliaries—with men with guns, supposedly apolitical members of the security forces, who have often campaigned openly for the UANC. Then there have been "friends" who have distributed tens of thousands of official-looking pamphlets warning people of the dangers of



Photographs by Brian Harris
Voter and campaigner: woman at ZANU rally and Bishop Abel Muzorewa speaking on behalf of his UNAC party.

"Socialism Marxism" compared with "true democracy". The party has also benefited from the fact that the country's entire administrative structure is not actually pro-UANC, certainly anti-ZANU (PF).

It is perhaps significant that the cries of "foul" have come largely from the political leaders themselves and not from the electorate. It is as though they realize they are not going to win as many seats as they wanted—they would, and are preparing their excuses in advance.

Whether the coming election can be described as being "free and fair" and will be accepted as such by the international community, is another matter. If measured by the yardstick of a western European election, it can be considered to be neither free nor fair. But taken in an African context, and particularly the circumstances existing in Rhodesia at the moment, it is probably to say that the result will reasonably

reflect the wishes of the majority of the black population.

But will it stop the war? That is what black Rhodesians want most of all. The answer will lie not so much with the freeness or fairness of the election but with the arithmetic of the result. This cannot be predicted with any accuracy at this stage but it is widely assumed that no party will win an overall majority. This means the first government of Zimbabwe will be a coalition.

With two days to go before polling starts it is still expected that ZANU (PF) will win the largest number of the 80 black seats in the new parliament. However there are signs that support for the party, which reached its peak during the year following Mr Mugabe's triumphal return to Rhodesia, has not grown significantly since then. In fact Mr Mugabe's failure to attend a rally in Bulawayo for "security reasons" may have cost him a seat in Matabeleland and per-

haps in the midland province as well. Similarly there are signs that some voters may be reacting against the party's threats to carry on fighting unless it wins.

By contrast Bishop Muzorewa seems to have turned the tide which at one stage was running strongly against him. He has already held wide-ranging talks with those parties that are expected to be repressed in the new parliament. If Mr Mugabe wins substantially less than 40 seats Mr Nkomo may well try to put together a coalition with the UANC and other black parties in which he would be prime minister. A coalition which would almost certainly have the support of the whites.

However if Mr Mugabe wins in excess of 40 seats Mr Nkomo may feel he has no option but to revive the former Patriotic Front alliance, but this time as junior partner to Mr Mugabe. This is clearly what Mr Mugabe hopes will happen, and probably a large number of black voters as well who believe such a coalition would represent Ndebele as well as Shona inter-

ests. However it would be opposed by the whites who would either pack their bags and leave or possibly be supported (in a partnership with excluded black parties) to resist it by force.

Any coalition is bound to be an uneasy one, made doubly so by the fact there are still three well-armed and undefeated armies in the country—Mr Nkomo's Ziva, Mr Mugabe's ZANU and the Rhodesian SDC forces. What to do with these armies will be the crucial problem during the immediate aftermath of the election.

So far virtually nothing has been done to bring the three armies together, although it is likely that some symbolic attempt at integration may be made before the British leave. While the guerrillas and the security forces are to blame for this lack of action, the suspicions developed during years of fighting tend to overshadow the desire for assimilation. The fact that the three armies have survived from fighting each other during the ceasefire has been largely due to the presence of the Commonwealth monitoring force which has acted as a vital psychological buffer between the rival forces.

But what happens when the monitoring force pulls out? That will be the most dangerous moment of the whole exercise. There are fears that Ziva will refuse to accept any result that does not leave Mr Mugabe in power. This means the security forces, who are already massively deployed around the country, could once again be ordered to turn their guns on the old enemy.

But equally there are fears that Bishop Muzorewa and the whites will not accept the formation of a government from which they are excluded.

The power of the security forces is still formidable and it would be hard for any black leader to rule the country effectively with them in opposition.

British officials in Salisbury have privately been saying that there is a 50-50 chance of civil war after the country becomes independent. This is a depressing forecast, particularly in view of South Africa's warnings about possible intervention by its armed forces in the event of a civil war. That would almost certainly lead to the internationalization of the conflict, which would almost certainly have the support of the whites.

But perhaps this is all being unduly pessimistic. The prospect of a renewed war may prove to be a sufficient incentive for the country's black leaders to shelve past rivalries and work together to establish the genuinely free and democratic Zimbabwe they promise in their manifesto.

One must hope so, because the people and the country have suffered enough.

Eric Heffer

The Friedman plan: ready for the bin?

One thing is certain, the Government have only really got individual and collective freedom because of the interference of the state.

Legislation introduced by Liberal, Labour and subsequently Conservative governments has given them rights which they never had and a dignity and decency which they had never known before. Professor Milton Friedman has taken over No. 10, and it's a national disaster.

The fight between the "progressive" and "reactionary" wings in the Conservative Party is without doubt coming to the boil. The first public disquiet to be expressed was contained in a lecture by Sir Ian Gilmore to the Cambridge Union which in effect totally repudiated the non-interventionist policies of Sir Keith Joseph. The second was more specific in an unsigned article in *The Observer*. Not since the days of the article signed by "A Conservative" in *The Spectator*, has there been such forthright and open personal attacks on the Tory Party leader.

It is often said that the Victorian era was the era of Britain's greatness, the period of Britain's strength, and our present Government's leaders tend to look back on this time with a nostalgia bordering on the romantic. It is, however, only since governments began to interfere in economic and other affairs that our people's lives have been transformed.

Despite all the problems, the overwhelming mass of the people live at a level unimagined at the turn of the century, and that has come about not because of the free market, but because of the growth of the state institutions and legislation brought in by successive governments.

Despite his academic qualifications, Professor Friedman is, like Mrs Thatcher's Government, only up to "A" levels in his economic thinking. His theories are so simplistic that one could be forgiven for believing that he looks upon the people as having a mental age of no more than 15 or 16. In a classroom session in the film, he rightly draws attention to the fact that a pencil is the product of co-operative labour and says it can only really be produced because "the operation of the free market is so essential, not only to promote productive efficiency, but even more to foster harmony and peace among the peoples of the world".

It is such a simple notion that Professor Friedman misses the whole point. It is precisely because no one product can be made by one person, that cooperative effort and ownership is required. This was the message that Mr Harold Macmillan preached in his book, *The Middle Way*. It was the theme of Maynard Keynes' economics, it is in reality the only way to survival.

Professor Friedman's type of thinking has been echoed by Sir Keith Joseph, who for a number of years now has been pressing this case, even going so far as to claim that Conservative policies pursued by Tory governments since the war have been pale carbon copies of those developed by Labour governments.

The nice easy solution for Sir Keith Joseph, as well as for Professor Friedman, is for government to withdraw from economic affairs, let market forces rip and "hey presto", it will come right in a relatively short space of time.

Alas, after less than one year in office, the theory is going badly wrong for the Tories. Inflation is not coming down, but going up. Unemployment is rising with two million unemployed being forecast by the end of the year. The balance of payments is getting worse, and high interest rates are not having the desired effect which the Treasury had hoped for.

In my view, therefore, it will not be too long before either the Government changes course drastically or cracks wide open. At that stage, Professor Friedman's ideas will be put where they belong, at the bottom of the waste bin, or perhaps more generously, exhibited as old-fashioned curiosities.

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The author is Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton.

Strikes: the new battleground for workers' minds

Industry steel workers who have been out on the stones for nearly two months with no dispute benefit—and with no end in sight to their increasingly bitter struggle.

The Cabinet has not budged one iota from its insistence that public funding is only available to run down the industry's numbers, not increase the pay of an unnecessarily large work force.

So far the political strike against this Government's decision to change its industrial policies is a forbidding prospect. That is why the TUC is very reluctant to enter into an all-out confrontation. The clash has come too early in the lifetime of Mrs Thatcher's administration, the battle is not of the general council's choosing, and in any case, such a conflict offends the traditional orthodoxy of the trade union hier-

archy. The fiasco in the South Wales coalfield will merely strengthen the cautious elements in the TUC leadership.

What, then, is the explanation for the militancy of the new set of workers of realism is gaining ground. By rejecting the advice of their leaders, they expect pay rises ranging up to 19 per cent, they forced up the price of a settlement in these two key utilities, and have almost certainly driven up the price of wage deals elsewhere in the public sector.

And it must be recalled that while the miners have spurned the political lead of their coalfield officials, they were evenly divided in December on a strike call from the NUM executive over a 20 per cent pay offer. More than that, while

Longbridge workers decisively snubbed the idea of a shut-down over their dismissed convenor, the BL workforce as a whole has ignored the warnings of Sir Michael Edwards and follows the advice of the unions in a 6 to 4 vote against the company's "survival".

The tentative conclusion must be that workers are taking a leaf out of Lord Denning's book, and applying their own test of "remoteness" when their leaders threaten a dispute. If their own living standards are at stake, they are willing to gamble on the outcome of industrial action. But they balk at being asked to hazard income and jobs in pursuit of more nebulous objectives—whether it be an attempt to force changes in government policy, or the defence of the shop steward system.

Furthermore, the willingness of workers to follow their leaders on the issue of pay (at the engineering strike of last autumn demonstrated) extends even to distant elements of collective bargaining such as minimum rates from which only minority stand to make substantial gains. Shop floor pressure is still running very strongly, but it is running in the natural channels of wages and conditions rather than in the political directions preferred by some union leaders.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary for Industry, is therefore right to hedge his bets on the prospect of a fundamental change of climate in industry. Three days ago, he expressed the hope that "there is a hint of a beginning of a change", adding "but it is only limited at this stage".

The same day, Mr James Prier argued that the Government has the support of ordinary people for the Employment Bill. In this, he has the statistical backing of an opinion poll conducted recently in *The Times*, which showed a big majority in favour of the legislation even among trade unionists.

That will be the real battleground for workers' minds. The Employment Act, as it will be in time for the 1980-81 wage round, will curb the powers of unions to enforce such minimum rates from which only minority stand to make substantial gains. Shop floor pressure is still running very strongly, but it is running in the natural channels of wages and conditions rather than in the political directions preferred by some union leaders.

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sciously cheat: it is simply that they know what they like and what they like are Russian words.

Winter sports enthusiasts, apart from rating their emotions with occasional outbursts of raised eyebrows. There was even a veiled hint that the winning Soviet pair broke the rules when their partner put his hand on Miss Rodnina's thigh during the tricky manoeuvre.

I noticed that the Russian pair's partiality was patriotic rather than ideological, for when their allies the Czechs or the East Germans were battling for a medal with a Soviet skater, they were marked down to. I do not think they con-

Olympics? The boycott seems likely to go ahead, although the United States Olympic committee was careful last week to keep their options open before coming to a formal decision in

Talking of jokes, now that the Olympics are over we have to return to our television sport to the presidential election campaign. The contest to gain the highest office in what, despite everything, is still the world's most powerful democracy, now hinges on whether one of the contenders, Mr Ronald Reagan, may or may not be forgiven for telling a joke which cast aspersions on Poles and Italians.

For some, a more significant issue was whether or not the reporter who first broke the news should be forgiven for solemnly copying down the text of a story told in a relaxed moment and bruising it to the world. Was this perhaps taking "warts and all" journalism too far?

When I went up to Lake Placid before Christmas various people there made predictions of exciting things that could go wrong. There might be enough snow on the ski runs; the ice-making machines might fail; the skating arena with carbon monoxide, poisoning the skaters; worst of all, the arena itself might collapse.

None of that happened, but grave foul-ups did occur in areas where few had expected them. The intricate system for getting people to the events by bus from the distant parking

areas proved inoperable on the first day, and intending spectators had to wait so long to pick up reserved tickets that they missed the events they had registered for. I predict a similar summer of litigation bonanza.

Other victims had to wait for two hours and more for transport, in temperatures only just above zero degrees Fahrenheit. Several cases of frostbite were reported. The chaos finally reached the athletes when some Russian medal-winners did not attend their victory ceremony because nobody told them it was going to take place.

Such freedom existed in Britain during the Victorian era. The market forces were supreme, there was no National Health Service, no welfare state, no unemployment and sickness benefits, and there was abject poverty. The truth is that the working people of

soon be freed. The bad news is that the Lake Placid Olympic Committee are arranging their transport home.

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NO EASY VICTORY

The Soviet Union is not winning in Afghanistan. It is not winning the hearts and minds of the people and it is not winning the military battle against the guerrillas. This does not mean it can never win. If it puts in enough troops and allows them to kill enough people it might achieve an uneasy stability. And if it draws on its post-revolutionary experience of slaughtering and deporting whole nations it might over a period of years bring Afghanistan into the Soviet Union. But the situation at the moment must be considerably worse than the Soviet leaders expected when they ordered the invasion two months ago. Fighting continues, especially in the eastern parts of the country. The land routes to Jalalabad are largely out of Soviet control. The Afghan army is still suffering significant defections. Closed shops and demonstrations in Kabul testify eloquently to the anti-Soviet feelings of the people. Hopes—if there were such hopes—that Mr Karmal might win credibility as a friend of Islam must now be in shreds. The same must be true of Soviet hopes that the country could be brought quickly under military control. As more reinforcements pour in the Soviet leaders will now be contemplating the implications of a prolonged struggle.

Does this mean that they are already looking seriously for a "way out"? Logically it should, for they seem to have made two serious miscalculations. They miscalculated the strength of resistance inside Afghanistan

and they miscalculated the reaction of the West and the non-aligned, expecting both to be more verbal and transitory than is so far the case. If they see this now they might be expected to start trying to cut their losses. But even the Americans took several years to face up to defeat in Vietnam, and the elderly Soviet leadership is not quick on its feet. Probably Soviet generals, like their American counterparts in Vietnam, are still arguing that a few hundred thousand more troops will enable them to do the job. Even if they are not, the political system does not facilitate change. The whole Politburo will certainly have endorsed the invasion together, whatever private misgivings may have been felt by some members. They are all responsible and they are all guilty if the enterprise goes wrong. Therefore none can criticize the others without also criticizing himself. Nor can anyone outside the Politburo start the critical ball rolling without being quickly sat upon.

At the moment, therefore, the leadership is in the phase of trying to limit the damage and find scapegoats elsewhere. The line is now clear. First, say the Soviets, the trouble in Afghanistan was caused—and is still being caused—by interference from outside. The Americans, Pakistanis, Chinese and others are arming subversive elements. The Soviet Union is merely offering fraternal help to the legitimate Government under the terms of the friendship treaty of December 5, 1978. Secondly,

the western reaction is explained

almost entirely by the imperatives of the American election campaign and has no basis in the realities of the situation. Therefore detente can be restored as soon as the West comes to its senses again.

These arguments are thin and are seen by most people to be thin, so they will only do for a while. As the struggle goes on to more quiescences. Casualty figures will become more widely known among the Soviet people. The economic costs of the enterprise, including the effects of the grain embargo, will be totted up against the generally poor state of the economy. East European countries will become even more reluctant to raise their contributions to the defence budgets for the sake of overseas adventures (Angola and Ethiopia are still costing money). The Muslim countries will observe the daily killing of Muslims. None of this will necessarily be sufficient to force a change of course in Moscow but it could gradually have one of two effects—either prodding Mr Brezhnev to look for a political bridge across which to retreat or, if the time for a change of leader has come for other reasons, influencing the choice of his successor.

In these circumstances it is important for western policy to remain firm and consistent. Only if the costs of Soviet aggression remain high will the right consequences be drawn in the Kremlin. Unilateral western concessions help hawks not doves by indicating that aggression pays.

where the person concerned is not so familiar. The Press Council's report refers to "the cumulative effect which repeated telephone inquiries made to a household not geared to receive them was likely to have on Professor Bedson". It consequently suggests that where inquiries may focus such severe pressure as this on an individual arrangements should be made to lessen the pressure. The council hopes that "university and other authorities will make such arrangements by, say, the routing of telephone calls and the holding of press conferences in the future".

In principle, this is sensible enough. It must obviously be right to take excessive pressure off any person whenever this can be done. But there are liable to be two practical difficulties. The first is that it is not always easy to tell who person is under exceptional strain. That is especially true when the pressure of anxiety about a particular crisis or controversy may be even more wearing than the attendant publicity. Secondly, there may be cases where only the principal individual concerned has the technical knowledge to answer the most relevant questions. It was apparently for this reason that Professor Bedson decided of his own volition to take calls himself. The prudent doctrine of the Press Council must not be made a justification for providing that questions will be taken only by press officers who are not equipped to answer them.

places costs in £140m a year, and adds that he sees no reason why the Community taxpayer should not be spared most of that bill. More to the important point, his legal reasoning suggests that the solution to the problem contrary to the view held in the oil-dominated Parliament lies entirely in the hands of MEPs.

A short recall of post-war Community history may not come amiss. Strasbourg's dominant place in West European affairs derives from Ernest Bevin, the British Foreign Secretary, who saw a city that had been in and out of French and German hands as an apt symbol of European unity that must be. The chamber and headquarters of the Council of Europe were built there; and to this day the Parliament's hemicycle and offices belong to the Council of Europe. If only because after direct elections no other chamber was available to take 410 members and their supporting staffs, Luxembourg has now completed and furnished a hemicycle formally that Luxembourg, Brussels and Strasbourg shall remain the provisional places of work of the European Parliament!

Accidents of history have also informed the staff, wives and families of the peripatetic Parliament, whose homes and schools are in Luxembourg in the shadow (so to speak) of the parliamentary tower blocks and the new, possibly useless, parliamentary hemicycle. If plenary sessions in Luxembourg were to be cut out of the itinerary for the parliamentary road show and another single fixed site were chosen, then the staff, through no fault of their own, would be selling houses in Luxembourg at a loss and buying new homes elsewhere at a premium.

It follows that the Parliament's staff, high and low, are in arms against moves of MEPs to dislodge their family lives; and there have already been a few occasions when the Parliament has come under warning that a multinational democratic institution stands peculiarly at the mercy of interpreters and translators, firmly because no business can be done without them anywhere if grievances or faults to consult causes anyone to withdraw from the Parliament's cubicles.

That is still the position. But forward the lawyers. Mr Tyrrell and his supporters now point out that the Council of Ministers has defaulted on Article 216 of the foundation Treaty: "The seat of the Community's institutions shall be fixed by the Governments of the Member States acting in common agreement." "Seat" in the singular, let it be noted.

There is no Treaty reference to provisional working places, and Article 142 of the Treaty allows the Assembly to "adopt its rules of procedure by a vote of the majority of its members" and thereby, argue the lawyers, to fix its own single working place in default of a decision by the Council of Ministers.

In spite of the clear words of the Treaty, the governments of the Six



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protecting British agriculture

From Mr Malcolm Hill

Sir, Your leader of February 15 drew attention to the conflict of interests caused by the protection of agriculture: "farmers pulling one way and the consumers and taxpayers pulling another". On account of the import controls and subsidies instituted by the Common Agricultural Policy, the British consumer must pay annually in addition to the cost of their food value on world market prices (a surcharge representing the excess of EEC prices over world prices, valued at over £1,000m recently) and (b) subsidies to the EEC of about the same amount.

Yet the President of the National Farmers' Union has the temerity to suggest (February 19) that the distinction drawn in your leader was "a false distinction". For, he argues, the more the British farmer is encouraged to grow, the greater is the saving to the nation of the cost of imports.

He makes a political point about the abolition of the grammar schools, when he must know that the examination results he quotes are the result of the grammar school system and cannot yet be attributed to a fully non-selective system.

He compares the cost of education in inner London with authorities elsewhere, but he does not compare the costs of other services, such as social services administered by the Inner London boroughs, which show comparable variations.

He quotes population figures to show that there are education authorities as small as some inner London boroughs, without stopping to question whether those authorities are in a good position to provide the necessary level and quality of education and without even mentioning the drop in school population, which will effect a reduction of over 40 per cent in inner London secondary schools by the end of this decade.

If there is a case for doing something about the ILEA it will have to be argued more responsibly than this. There is no doubt that ILEA's constitution is unique, some will say anomalous. However, my own experience of ILEA is not the same as

Future of Inner London schooling

From Mr Martin Lightfoot

Sir, Professor David Smith (Social Focus, February 20) makes a number of very familiar points in favour of breaking up the ILEA.

He compares the examination results of ILEA pupils with those from other authorities. He does not say that the ILEA pupils are less able, validated nationally for many years by the National Foundation for Educational Research, have consistently shown that the number of able pupils in ILEA is well below the national level.

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Professor Smith's in my observation education is frequently an issue at both borough and GLC elections, and I know from personal experience that the process of consultation with the inner London boroughs on the level of precept can be scrupulous.

Moreover, Professor Smith's proposal that education should be devolved to the boroughs comes at a time when there is widespread realization that many urgent problems, especially in the inner cities, require bodies with powers to act across local government boundaries, and indeed the Secretary of State for the Environment has recently sought powers to do just that. Can we look forward to Professor Smith mounting the same arguments about London's docklands?

Many people will agree with the Marshall committee, set up by the Conservative-controlled GLC, that for all its faults it should be left alone, something else needs to be done, which does not one propose the most obvious solution? Instead of the disruption—and expensive disruption, as we know from the abolition of Middlesex—of dividing ILEA up, what is the objection to allowing direct elections to the authority?

Given the nature of inner London, the appreciable amount of travel to school across borough boundaries and the unparalleled provision of higher and further education, devolving education to the inner London boroughs risks diminishing precisely that element of democratic control which it is designed to secure.

You're faithfully,
MARTIN LIGHTFOOT,
16 de Beauvoir Square, N1.
February 20.

Peace groups in Northern Ireland

From Mrs Christopher Ewart-Biggs

Sir, I welcome Mr David Bleakley's letter in your columns today (February 22). He made the point clearly that there is no interruption in the work being done towards creating a climate for peace in Northern Ireland and the members of the Community of the Peace People have differed over method and organization, but there has been no difference of opinion among them as to their objective. They will go on working, individually and collectively, towards peace, as do those many other groups who make up the forces of reason and sanity in Ireland.

Members of the Peace People of England, Scotland and Wales will continue to support such work. Our organization has already contributed to the Corrymeela and Glencree reconciliation centres, where families of all backgrounds meet together to learn and work together. We support all work which provides cultural, recreational and sporting activities for Northern Ireland's youth. This is our priority since today's stone-throwing child so easily becomes tomorrow's killer.

Such work deserves the support of all reasonable people on both sides of the Irish Sea. Yours faithfully,
JANE EWART-BIGGS,
31 Radnor Walk, SW3.
February 22.

A word for the Vikings

From Professor Ian Finlay

Sir, Press and BBC comments on the Viking exhibition at the British Museum fail it as revealing the Vikings were not mere pirates.

Most of us who have lived in areas strongly influenced by them have long realized their virtues, and I recall a day many years ago at Upsala when Professor Bertil Almgren brilliantly demonstrated to my wife and me just how cultured and progressive people they were.

Any visitor to the exhibition may glimpse—in more than that—the impact on the culture of people that descended from it. He can't look at the decoration on the museum's ball-shrine from Tingvalla, known as the "Bearnar Cutha". The whiskered masks on it could have come out of the Oseberg ship-burial in Oslo.

Yet, to keep the record straight, their reputation for rapine is not entirely a fiction of the monastic chroniclers, as implied by some accounts of the exhibition.

As the most recent writer on the life of St Columba, I have spent much time in examining the Columban church, the most interesting evidence about which is reflected in its art. Of the Irish monasteries surviving from the eighth century, about half is Viking plunder, now in Scandinavian museums. Much has been crushed to bullion, like the silver hoard from Busekerud in Oslo.

The irony of this is that, were it not for the Viking practice of burying loots with the dead, we should know much less about that church which kept the flame of Christianity burning in western Europe and which eventually helped convert the Vikings.

Your faithfully,
IAN FINLAY,
Currie Riggs,
3 Newmills Road,
Balerno,
Edinburgh.
February 18.

From Mrs Ursula Owen

Sir,

W

What was really shocking about Ronald Butt's article on sex education (February 14) was its witch-hunting tone and his insulting misrepresentations of Jane Cousins's book.

These programmes, which have a substantial and seemingly satisfied audience, show the development, birth and growth of the young baby in the context of parental care and responsibility. Sexual intercourse is described but not illustrated; nor is there a "white wedding", but loving relationships and a stable family life are implicit throughout the programmes.

The age of eight plus was chosen by the School Broadcasting Council after research and consultation in the schools, with considerable parental involvement in the piloting stage.

It was observed that children at this age are curious about their own growth and development and find babies much more interesting than the sexual behaviour of adults, and I do not know of any evidence that instruction given in this way in early years leads to precocity or an obsession with sex. Rather are these children likely to be better fortified to resist the "sex missionaries" than those who have had no such instruction.

Many parents handle this part of child rearing successfully within the family circle, but others, probably the majority, are either negligent of this duty or find its performance difficult and embarrassing and are glad of help from the schools at any stage. In many schools excellent instruction is given by teachers with the skill and the temperament to present it effectively.

Parent-teacher cooperation is so important in this field that the pro-

gramme is not available to all.

It would be hard to guess at any of this from Mr Butt's account, which depended on quoting out of context material on sex and the law taken from something under three pages out of 160.

Ronald Butt talks about "sex education missionaries". What he sounds like is a fearful witchdoctor, jealously guarding the tribe's taboos and outraged at the thought that control may be slipping from his grasp.

You're faithfully,
URSULA OWEN,
Director,
Virage Press,
5 Wardour Street, W1.
February 22.

The name of this nation has been lost. Vikings perhaps?

Yours faithfully,
ADRIENNE CORRI,
26 Springfield Road, NW8.

February 13.

Ripeness is all

From the Editor-in-Chief of *Which?*

Sir, If Mr Levin (February 19) would care to drop in one lunchtime, I would explain to him—over a glass of wine and some by now well-matured test samples of Gjetost, Roquefort and Denizli Blue—how *Which?* came to describe all the (111) types of cheese in the shops, and the (65) varieties of English press.

Having played all my rugby in England, at school and at club level, I deplore the implications of the rugby correspondents of national newspapers that the illegalities of the game are only practised by Welsh teams. Recently between the two clubs the press has been relied on to pin-point some facets of the Welsh game, in the manner of "When will you stop beating your wife?"

It is all so un-English—or is there no longer an "English" code of conduct?

You're faithfully,
J. A. MORGAN,
47 Windsor Avenue,
Cardiff.

February 18.

Movable feast?

From Miss Hilary Webb

Sir, The plight of the inhabitants of Finistere, where starlings are said (report, February 20) to be consuming 30 tons of corn a day, is appalling. It is a desperate situation and requires desperate measures, and I would like to offer a possible remedy which, with gond will, could solve two problems at once.

How about introducing the birds to a diet of Golden Delicious apples. If they are really hungry, particularly about what they eat, and might in time even come to enjoy them. And we, for our part, would gladly forgo our right to the crop in such a deserving cause.

You're faithfully,

HILARY WEBB,
42 Meadowside Road,
Chesham,
Buckinghamshire,
England.

February 21.

Abortion law changes

From Mr L. J. Macfarlane

Sir, The statement made in Parliament on February 15 by the Solicitor General for Scotland, Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, that "under the law of Scotland neither in the 19 years since 1967 nor in the 13 centuries before that has ever been a crime to destroy a foetus in utero" is untrue.

On February 16, may have been a plausible rhetoric but showed a dismal grasp of his native country's past history and legislation.

From the earliest centuries of Scotland's conversion to Christianity down to 1860, his country, like other Christian countries, was governed by canon law, which expressly forbade the destruction of the live fetus in utero, treating such, like infanticide, as an affront to God, the giver of life, and a crime against man (*Corpus Iuris Canonici*, Decretales Greg. IX, Lib. V, tit. 12, cxx, *De homicidio voluntario vel casuali*, Anna xiv, AD 1215).

It follows that the Parliament's staff, high and low, are in arms against moves of MEPs to disallow their family lives; and there have already been a few occasions when the Parliament has come under warning that a multinational democratic institution stands peculiarly at the mercy of interpreters and translators, firmly because no business can be done without them anywhere if grievances or faults to consult causes anyone to withdraw from the Parliament's cubicles.

But for the lawyers, Mr Tyrrell and his supporters now point out that the Council of Ministers has defaulted on Article 216 of the foundation Treaty: "The seat of the Community's institutions shall be fixed by the Governments of the Member States acting in common agreement." "Seat" in the singular, let it be noted.

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52.2760
Index 72.8
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■ Gold
5629.5
■ Money
33 month sterling 173-173½
3 month Euro \$161-17
6 month Euro \$161-17

IN BRIEF

Meccano unions seek to postpone closure date

Unions at the Meccano factory in Liverpool are to seek an extension of the closure deadline imposed by Airfix Industries, the parent company.

This is the result of a visit last Friday by Mr Neil Gough, who is representing a Canadian consortium which is considering a takeover. Mr Gough is due to meet Mr Ralph Erman, the Airfix chairman, early this week.

Airfix is due to take the plant back on Thursday at the end of the 90-day statutory notice, during which the factory has been occupied by the workers. More than 500 of them have accepted redundancy terms.

Stronger watchdogs call

Consumers are carriers of the national industries, and consumer councils looking after their interests should be strengthened. Mr Michael Barnes says in the council's annual report, 'out today'. He adds that it would be a tragedy if the review of "quangos" failed to distinguish between those which did an important job and those which might be superfluous.

World Bank bonds

The World Bank said a \$w. Fr 100m (£26m) issue of its 10-year bonds, bearing interest at 5.75 per cent annually, will be offered to the public at 95 per cent of par tomorrow by a Swiss underwriting group headed by Union Bank of Switzerland. The money will be used for loans to developing nations.

Korea SDR link

South Korea's currency, the won, is being linked to the IMF's special drawing rights and will no longer be pegged to the United States dollar. This is a first step towards a floating exchange system involving the currencies of South Korea's major trading partners.

New bank chairman

Sigor Giovanni Guidi, managing director of Banco di Roma, has been appointed chairman in place of Sigor Leopoldo Modugno, who retires at his own request. Sigor Guidi keeps the post of managing director which he will now share with Sigor Tommaso Rubbi.

Trinity House order

Trinity House is to place the £5m order for the replacement of its flagship THV Patricia with Robt Caledon of Dundee after tendering worldwide. The new ship's main job will be servicing the 800 Trinity House buoys around the British coast.

Hospital contract

Taylor Woodrow of Nigeria has won a £28m contract to construct further phases of the Sokoto Teaching Hospital programme, in the north west of the country. The company was awarded the first phase of the contract in 1974.

Exhibitors 30 pc up

Exhibitors are up by 30 per cent at Electrex, the biannual exhibition of the electrical engineering industry, which is expected to attract 50,000 people to the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, this week.

Iran uranium stake

Iran plans to keep its stake in the Eurodif uranium enrichment consortium but will not purchase uranium which would have been due to it. Iran, which has a 10 per cent holding, denied that it planned to withdraw from the consortium.

Venezuela oil exports

Venezuela's average daily oil exports in the first six weeks of 1980 were 14 per cent behind the pace set in all of 1979. Exports to February 14 fell to 1.747 million 42-gallon barrels a day from 2.032 million barrels in 1979.

First of 21,000 car men laid off as Leyland wrestles with sales slump

By Edward Townsend
A programme of lay-offs and redundancies throughout BL car and component factories begins today and will involve about 21,000 workers—almost 18 per cent of the workforce—in the coming weeks.

The action has been forced upon BL by the sharp decline in its market share in January and the glut of unsold cars in dealers' showrooms. It is estimated that stocks of BL cars around the country are now sufficient to meet 16 weeks' demand, against a normal stock level of 10 weeks.

Today, nearly 13,000 workers will be laid off and 6,500 put on short working time. The peak of the lay-offs will be reached in the first week of March when 14,500 will be idle and 6,900 on short time. The combined total will fall to about 9,000 in the last week of the month.

BL's main aim is to reduce costs of Murina, Maxi, Deltic, Princess and Rover cars. The company said there were an estimated 80,000 vehicles lying unsold at its factories and showrooms.

More layoffs will occur today at the Pressed Steel Fisher plant at Speke, Merseyside, bringing the total without work there to 380, more than a quarter of the workforce. The factory makes bodies for the Dolomite model, production of which is concentrated at the Canley plant in Coventry.

There could be further layoffs if demand for a particular model did not increase, a Leyland spokesman said yesterday. "But we are not thinking along those lines at the moment."

Uncertainty over the impact of the dismissal of Mr Derek Robinson, the Longbridge union convenor, was not behind them, the spokesman said, but agreement on a new wage deal was to be achieved and a number of other problems had to be resolved.

News of the layoffs has angered trade union officials who fear that the company will announce soon even more redundancies than the 25,000 which Leyland claims are necessary as part of the company's recovery plan.

Under this plan—backed by the Government—which is injecting £300m into the company sales in the latter part of this month, BL said March was considered the key month in the campaign. The total United Kingdom car market this year is expected to decline from last year's record 1.7 million to 1.5 million with some observers forecasting sales as low as 1.3 million.

Against this background, Ford said last week it was planning to maintain its units sales in the United Kingdom this year which would mean lifting its market share from 28.3 per cent in 1979 to more than 32 per cent. The company hopes to increase domestic output and reduce imports.

Meanwhile, a two-week lay-off for 400 workers at Ford's Halewood, Merseyside, plant ends today. The men, who work on the transmission assembly line, were laid off because of component shortages.

The move to ask Hoare

Component makers are facing further cutbacks because the national steel strike is hitting supplies. Steel supplies are at critical levels in some areas. There have been limited layoffs at some companies, but BL's production cutback is expected to have a much quicker and wider impact.

BL's market share slumped to a record low level of 15 per cent in January. It climbed back to about 18 per cent in the first two weeks of this month and the company is hoping for a better start in March.

The £2m "Buy British" campaign, which got off to a slow start in January, should improve sales in the latter part of this month. BL said March was considered the key month in the campaign. The total United Kingdom car market this year is expected to decline from last year's record 1.7 million to 1.5 million with some observers forecasting sales as low as 1.3 million.

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The move to ask Hoare

Fairey bid backers named as NEB chairman expresses anger at Hambros involvement

By Philip Robinson

Equity Capital for Industry, the financial institution set up four years ago and backed by about 300 pension funds and insurance companies, is among a dozen investment groups behind the £19.3m bid by Hambros to buy Fairey Holdings from the National Enterprise Board.

Other groups include the Sun Life and Prudential assurance companies, the pension funds of the Coal Board, Imperial Group and BP, the ICI, and Thompson Clive the West-End financiers.

Govern the stockbrokers if they could put a number of interested parties together followed the June meeting between the NEB and Hambros.

If the Hambros bid is successful, it will be two other intermediaries will place the bulk of Fairey's capital with the dozen institutions as part of the Government's plan of achieving £100m of asset sales within its first year in office.

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market conditions were not favourable for a flotation and the idea of asking Hoare Govett

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On February 15, Mr Murray was approached by Hambros and asked to make a bid by Hambros on behalf of a consortium of a dozen financial institutions which would be received. Seven days later Hambros launched its bid with the whole-hearted approach of Mr Murray and Sir Leslie Murphy who was then NEB chairman.

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It is understood that Mr Murray, the Fairey chairman who was appointed to the engineering company when it collapsed two years ago, is amazed at the NEB's cool reception.

A spokesman for Mr Murray said: "To say that this Hambros offer came out of the blue is nonsense. The NEB board were aware that a consortium was being put together to bid for the whole of Fairey since September 21.

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engineering group which the NEB bought from the receiver for £20m.

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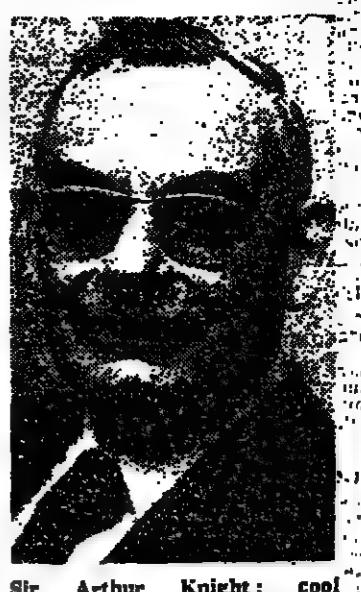
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The move to ask Hoare



Sir Arthur Knight: cool reaction to Hambros offer.

Equity Capital was launched in 1976 under the sponsorship of the Bank of England to meet, in part, criticism that the financial community neglected companies with technical difficulties.

But its initial attempts to fill that need were marred by the collapse of Bond Worth, its first investment. In December 1978, ECI was given a further two years to prove its usefulness. Its big change of direction was to go out and look for business, rather than wait for it to arrive.

Bank union to negotiate 25 pc claim nationally

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Pay negotiations for staff in the main high street banks, which are due to start within the next two weeks, will be considerably simplified by the employers' decision to conduct negotiations at a national level.

Last year's negotiations which were generally described as "chaotic" were conducted with each bank individually and led to enormous problems for the banks, ending with the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU) taking selective industrial action.

This year's negotiations on pay claims of more than 25 per cent from BIFU and staff associations at three of the main clearing banks will be held nationally, which BIFU yesterday claimed as a victory.

The banks will be coming under increasing pressure to meet the pay claims in full in view of their much higher profits last year. Lloyds Bank was the first to announce its 1979 results at the end of last week, and they showed a 49 per cent increase — to a pre-tax profit of £276.6m.

Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of BIFU, has submitted a claim for a 25 per cent increase across the board and increases of up to 31 per cent for lower-paid members, said last night: "The Lloyds results, and others which we expect to be announced shortly, show that the banks can quite easily meet our claim, which we consider is completely justified."

Staff associations at the National Westminster, Lloyds and Barclays banks have submitted a claim which ranges from 20 per cent for lower-paid staff to 28 per cent for the higher clerical grades.

BIFU was concerned that if negotiations were held at a national level, the employers would appear to be recognizing staff associations' negotiating rights at the Midland and Williams and Glyn's banks where BIFU has separate agreements.

The Federation of London Clearing Bank Employers has now made clear, as have the other two banks, that negotiations will not imply any kind of recognition.

Negotiations with the staff associations and BIFU will be held separately after the breakdown of talks to bring them together in one union

nationally strike-free until last year, was that it paid up, and its substantial profits allowed it to do so.

"But I think it unlikely that the 1980s will see such prolonged periods of industrial peace."

The reason is that both the substantial increase in the ITV contractors' rental payments to the IBA and the new subscription payments to meet the budget for the fourth channel will place ITV under tremendous financial strain in the 1980s, with the result that they will have to get tougher with the unions.

"And the unions, of course, with the greater expansion of television broadcasting in the 1980s, will be getting stronger. So like the rest of British industry, I fear that we too, must learn to live with much more frequent and prolonged

industrial action in television."

Mr Ivor Samuel, managing director of the Samuels, Jones, Isaacson, Page agency, agreed that more television strikes were likely. They would have to be met by very fast staff layoffs within the agencies, and a rapid switch of advertising to newspapers.

Also agencies needed to negotiate more comprehensive arrangements with their clients which would guarantee revenue during industrial disputes, he said.

According to the D'Arcy report some advertising agencies billing £10m to £20m a year lost, permanently 47 per cent of their gross because of last year's dispute.

Larger agencies, in the £20m to £40m range, fared better, recovering 76 per cent of cancelled advertising. But two of the big agencies expect to make no profit during 1980.

The Fokker F29: Japanese may become development and financial partners

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Fokker, the Dutch aerospace company, has received a new investment from the European Airbus Industrie consortium for a joint project to develop a 150-seat twinjet airliner.

Officially, Fokker says it is considering the proposal in aviation circles expect the reaction to be lukewarm at best. The Dutch company is well advanced with plans for its own 150-seat aircraft, the F29, and has high hopes of signing the Japanese as development and financial partners.

Mr Frans Swartouw, chairman of Fokker, has already had

two series of talks with the Japanese during recent visits to Tokyo. He hopes to bring a deal closer when a Japanese delegation comes to Holland in April.

Airbus Industrie—in which France, West Germany and Britain are the

MANAGEMENT

Retail muscle in the US money markets

Sears, Roebuck is the world's largest retailing company, selling billions of pounds worth of general merchandise to tens of millions of people each year. But Sears does not just sell shirts, shovels and shoes; it also sells life, car and property insurance or will give you a short- or medium-term loan, or a full mortgage.

Richard W. Sears may have started business back in 1886 selling watches, but today the corporation that carries his name underwrites virtually every type of financial business. In fact, Sears' financial business is more profitable than its retail trade in pots, plates and pianos.

Sears' net income for the fiscal year to the end of January 1979 was \$921.5m and of this firms insurance, property and other financial ventures accounted for more than \$300m.

This is by no means an accident. Sears has a clear management objective to diversify its financial fields, take better advantage of the financial environment in which it operates, and maximize its financial clout. In fact Sears has so many assorted financial balls up in the air that it is facing new management challenges in coordinating them all.

In terms of taking better advantage of its financial environment the company has been increasingly bypassing the banks. To raise short-term cash it has established its own subsidiary for issuing bonds. Run by 38 people, the subsidiary raises cash directly from banks and corporations.



Mr Edward Telling, chairman of Sears, Roebuck: strength of name creates opportunities.

By undertaking its own market operations Sears saves about one-eighth of 1 per cent in borrowing costs, which might not seem much at first; but then Sears has daily outstanding indebtedness of some \$3,000m.

On the long-term front, Sears has surprised some of its own

bankers by its sophistication in going overseas for cash. It has raised some \$150m in Europe in the Eurodollar market, and another \$90m in Japan. It has insurance companies in Germany and Switzerland and has share listings on Swiss bourses and the London Stock Exchange.

Mr Jack Kincannon, vice-chairman of Sears, sees the overseas financing ventures as merely a testing of the waters. More may come, perhaps to support new expansion projects in the financial services area. Sears tried to arrange with Great Universal Stores to sell insurance in Britain, but this arrangement fell through. In Japan, Sears is selling its insurance policies through a venture with the Seibu-Sony group.

Typical of its plans to take advantage of its marketing skills Sears plans to raise medium-term cash directly from its customers. The company has 26 million credit card customers, and these serve as a base for it to do some experimenting. Mr Kincannon says a survey of 5,000 customers suggests that a direct offer of Sears stock would be a big success.

In the next few months Sears will probably move into the securities brokerage business. It will try to sell directly to customers some \$250m of notes, with maturities ranging from two to eight years. If the offer

ing proves a success, then further such offerings might be made. "I do not see us raising more than say \$500m by this means in the next few years," said Mr Kincannon. He adds that Sears credit cards cannot be used in the stock purchases.

In the insurance field, Sears' Allstate Insurance, which has sales desks in Sears stores, had total investments of \$5,800m at the end of the 1978 fiscal year, but because of insurance rules, the company cannot directly invest in Sears and help its parent reduce its financing costs. All the same, Allstate does add to Sears' financial muscle.

Sears also owns a group of building societies in California, with assets of roughly \$3,000m. These societies are being reorganized into a group of wholly owned mortgage companies, known as PMI Mortgage, PMI Mortgage Insurance, and Allstate Enterprises Mortgage. Joining this group as well is another Sears subsidiary, Homart Development, which owns and operates 17 shopping centres and is a partner in eight others.

The new group, to be called Seraco Enterprises, had a combined net income in the 1978 financial year of \$67.1m. It is indicative of just how fast this group of financial ventures has grown that the operating income and net income are both six times as great now as they were in 1973.

There is no doubt that Sears is using its retail name to make waves in the wholesale and retail money markets, in insurance and the real estate business. Mr Edward Telling, chairman of Sears, has noted that expansion in property directly results from the fact that "the strength of the Sears name at retail frequently creates development opportunities".

There are still some areas to be covered. Sears once moved into the mutual fund business, but was relieved to get out again. It would not be surprising if before long Sears moved into the capital equipment leasing business, with its marketing power, reputation and financial strength, this seems a most logical development.

However, there is danger in running too fast in too many financial directions. The consolidating of all the property businesses is perhaps a portent of future management actions. Sears seems to be an highly centralized company in its traditional areas of general merchandise retailing, although the financial ventures seem less strictly integrated and controlled from the world's tallest building, the Sears Tower in Chicago. But there are already some American bankers claiming that Sears is the largest banking organization in the country.

First, you argue that since the volume of business does not make a proper contribution to profit, (whatever that may be), it should be run down rapidly. Secondly, it is not just Austin Morris but Rover, Triumph, too, that is in this predicament thanks to a whole series of post-Ryder policy errors.

The rapid run-down you recommend, of what would in effect therefore be virtually the entire United Kingdom owned motor-car industry, would be precisely to achieve what you say is unacceptable: the curving of the Midlands into an industrial disaster area".

Because you underestimate this awfully difficult industrial situation, you blithely suggest that BL's board should act as a receiver and preside over the dismemberment of the company and its eventual demise. Such a proposal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A recipe for the survival of BL

From Mr Geoffrey Robinson, MP for Coventry, North-West

Six Your leading article on British Leyland "A new level of crisis" (February 14) poses the question whether "BL as the group we know today has any future at all" and concludes correctly that it does not. However, there are certain dangerous fallacies and suggestions in your consequential arguments that might be made.

If the reality of the situation is that a restructuring of BL into more manageable groups with a distinct product coherence is an essential precondition for the improvement and management performance and of industrial relations—a view, incidentally, I have long espoused—then the Government, as owner of 95 per cent of BL, must accept its responsibilities and give effect to it.

In doing so, it should avoid politically motivated and financially unsound attempts to hock bits off and realize that the sum of BL's parts will only be greater than the present whole if it is given sufficient and sustained financial backing. And it is still possible that, once BL ceased to exist as the nation's number one industrial hit-target, the Government would be able to stick to such a course.

Yours etc,
GEOFFREY ROBINSON,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA.
February 15.

Taking the trouble to train top secretaries

The effectiveness of a senior company executive depends to a great extent on the quality of the service he receives from his personal secretary.

It is she who provides him with much of the data on which he bases decisions. She is the link between him and his colleagues within the company and with important contacts outside.

He relies on her for his itinerary on business trips and often for the planning of his working day, as she controls his appointments diary and sorts through those people who wish to meet his boss. He is often heavily dependent upon her for advice and moral support.

Yet many companies promote shorthand typists to the job of personal secretary without any special training. The result is that the girl flounders in her new job during the critical early few weeks that can often destroy her own confidence or the confidence of her boss in her ability to assist him.

Often, without formal induction training, the personal secretary is thrown in at the deep end and kept so busy that she never has an opportunity to discover what services and facilities exist within the company that could help her to do her job more efficiently.

Mr John Wilcox-Baker is head of administration at the headquarters of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's northern division at Risley, Cheshire. When he was the division's group training officer he set up a scheme for training personal secretaries in order to groom them to be effective assistants to senior executives.

Wilcox-Baker's scheme Bill contains provisions designed to deal with the basic provision of the Bill is problem of insider trading. The problem of insider trading is that a person who has been knowingly connected with a company within the previous six months cannot deal in securities of that company if he is in possession of unpublished price sensitive information" in relation to those securities.

This unpublished price sensitive information is defined as information on specific matters not generally known to those persons likely to deal in securities of the company and which would materially affect the price of such securities. This definition is likely to prove extremely narrow in that the Bill stresses that matters of a general nature are not included. Such matters can be "useful" in predicting future developments to people with sufficient knowledge of a company's activities.

The definition of a "connected person" is also liable to cause difficulties in that it includes directors, officers of the company, or others in a business or professional relationship which might give them access to price sensitive information. Professional advisers could be connected persons in relation to one transaction although not in relation to another.

Clare Watson

"If it were possible", in Mr Wilcox-Baker's controversial view, "the best way round would be to train someone first as a secretary and only later as a shorthand typist".

Courses are still held twice a year by the UKAEA's northern division, and they are attended by girls who have made the jump from the typing pool and who are the most likely candidates for top secretarial jobs in the near future.

The courses cover three main themes—the work of the UKAEA as a whole; how the personal secretary can use available facilities within and outside the organization; and the personal role of the top secretary.

Presentations are given not only on dress and make-up, but on such things as the way a secretary's tone of voice influences the person at the other end of the telephone line. There are role-play sessions, in which each girl has to act as host to one of the course organizers and take him or her to lunch.

Perhaps the most sensitive part of the course is the debate on the loyalties of the personal secretary. "Ostie" Osborne, head of training at Risley, says that many girls object to the idea of nuclear energy within the nation's economy, gives them a much better understanding of the contribution made by their own department.

There are practical exercises in which the girls are asked to use the reference library to locate information that is urgently required, and they all express surprise at the wealth of reference material that they previously did not know existed.

They learn shortcuts to essential data—statistics, the names and backgrounds of executives in other industrial organizations, and in government and the Civil Service. They also meet the personnel in the travel department and are shown what forms and what facts and figures can serve to expedite an itinerary.

A similar course has been run



by the northern division for many girls feel confident in tackling a new top secretarial job. They also point out that there are valuable spin-offs. The information on the work of the UKAEA as a whole, and the role of nuclear energy within the nation's economy, gives them a much better understanding of the contribution made by their own department.

The courses are usually the only occasion when secretaries can meet their counterparts from other, distant sites within the northern division, such as Springfields laboratories at Preston and the laboratories at Preston and the laboratories at Preston and the reactors research station at Dounreay in Scotland. "From then on", says one girl, "communicating with them on the telephone becomes that much easier."

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Lessons from the liquidity squeeze ahead of Budget

The Bank of England has as everyone must be aware by now, been playing an extremely delicate game in financial markets over recent weeks. It has had to ensure that the monetary system did not grind to a halt for lack of liquidity; and it has been trying to prevent any further rise in bank rates.

At this point the Bank must be just about halfway round the board and, though it is probably reasonably optimistic about completing the second half of the course without serious damage, it would certainly not dispute that each successive move must now depend on the circumstances ruling at the time.

However the general situation develops, there are a number of points worth making ahead of the consultative document on monetary reform and the Budget. Over and above the old chestnut of the obvious lessons to be learnt on the need for physical and monetary consistency, and the need to allow adequate real interest rates in good time, it is quite clear that the general financial planning of the present monetary year has not made life particularly easy for anyone.

To arrive in the final quarter with the Government projecting an (unadjusted) public sector surplus for the three months of more than £2,000m and yet still needing to sell debt relatively heavily is obviously something of a nonsense. There are of course excuses this year.

The Government came in to office only in May, yet still jumped straight into a radical fiscal strategy; it needed time to plan the sale of assets; the Post Office dispute severely distorted the flow of funds; and the Government had to jamb substantial corrective action against a full year PSSR overshoot, into the last few weeks of the year.

All that is as may be. What I am saying is that it should be possible to plan things rather better for next time round. That said, the Government is never likely to be able to plan the perfect financial year.

Short-term forecasting is a hazardous business at the best of times, and it may be that public sector asset (as opposed to debt) falls may sometimes have to be timed to fit in with considerations other than flow of funds management.

The Government has, however consistently been pressed to do something about a debt marketing system under which it relies heavily on the gilt-edged market and suffers (under the tap system) considerable uncertainty as to the timing of receipts. If a tender system is unacceptable there, must at least be a strong case for seeing that the tap system is made to work with more flexibility and greater efficiency.

The second point concerns the apparent fashion for using the present situation to argue that a monetary base system would only have made the present problem far worse. There may well be problems attaching to a monetary base system, but it does seem wrong to be so instantly dismissive of it.

First, it is ridiculous to argue that a monetary base system has to be so rigid that it could not have coped with recent events without dire consequences. The other side of this particular coin is that if the Bank of England had chosen to be totally inflexible under the present rules—and it could theoretically have chosen to be—the results would have been horrific.

The more important point however is that a monetary base system could have allowed for the provision of adequate banking reserves in a far more natural way than under the present system. It could have avoided the distortions in relative interest rates that have now finished up putting upward pressure of the level of interest rates in general.

Composite insurers

Braced for lower profits

Results season for the composite insurers which kicks off this week with results from Commercial Union on Tuesday, promises to

Business Diary profile: Richard Langdon's battleground

Richard Langdon did a large part of the training for his accounting qualifications while "sitting on a gunsite" during the war. It was an appropriate starting point for a man who has fought some formidable battles since.

The most recent of these, against fellow accountants Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, came to a curious end a couple of weeks ago. Both sides retired from the field, claiming that their honour was intact; but Langdon, in his capacity as liquidator to the fringe bank London & County, took £900,000 of Deloitte's indemnity insurance with him.

The case arose out of the collapse of London & County at the end of 1973, which precipitated the secondary banking crisis. Hermod Banner, auditor to the company, had given it a clean bill of financial health in their report on the accounts for the year to 31 March 1973—for which they were subsequently heavily criticized by the Department of Trade investigators into the company's affairs.

As liquidator for London & County, Langdon decided that he could and should be sued for the losses—a dividend and taxes that would not have been paid had the true position been obvious—that resulted from publication of the unaudited report.

More controversially he also sued for the losses made in three to six months trading that would not have been undertaken had the company died when it should have done, at the start of 1973.

It was, says Langdon, reser-

vations about the amount he would actually get on the latter account, even if judgment was given in his favour, that disposed him to listen with interest when Deloitte, still vigorously protesting its innocence, proposed a settlement out of court.

As the reverberations of this particular fracas die away he is applying his mind, again on behalf of the creditors of L & C, to the interesting question of whether anything can be done to banking clients nervous about

extracted from the company's former president, genius, Gerald Caplan. "I do not," says Langdon, "know much about Caplan, but I do know a good deal about his affairs."

Langdon, now 60, is no stranger to the sound and fury of City scandal. As senior partner and managing partner of Spicer & Pegler, a firm of accountants with a long, strong line in City connections, he has been called in often enough by banking clients nervous about

the security of their loans.

He was one of two Department of Trade inspectors appointed to investigate the affairs of the National Group of Unit Trusts, headed by Sir Gerald Lowson, former Lord Mayor of London, during 1973.

Langdon is a more recent chairman of PNFC, though he vigorously repudiated any suggestion of scandal attached to this, the longest occupant of the "lifelover".

He says he enjoys the "special" work on which he spends half his time: that the pressure is exciting, and the deadlines a challenge. The first few weeks, he says, are always the roughest, particularly in a potential disaster.

"You have to trim the sails, turn the thing around, maybe bail it out... to keep it afloat. After a while you get the thing organized... and then, if anyone else can do it, they should be asked to do."

"Anyway," he says, "producing a new firm which would certainly be considered heretical in most of the big, established auditing firms." "I don't think that anyone should work more than five or six hours a day on a continuous basis. You become pretty inefficient otherwise."

This evident enjoyment is in strong contrast to his start in accountancy, filling in a year before going up to Oxford, at the behest of his father, a self-made man in the best tradition of Spicer & Pegler clients, who did not believe that a graduate was of much use to anyone.

He thought accountancy "rather dull", but was sufficiently hooked on "dealing

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Two leading economists question the theory underlying the Government's policies

Monetarism: why Mrs Thatcher should beware

The Government's economic policies are now based on monetarist doctrine. Monetarist economists (for example Professor Minford in *The Times*, February 4) are claiming to have achieved an economic counter-revolution, meaning a revolution in our understanding of how the economy works. Yet few people seem to know what is the precise nature of that claim, or what are the objections to it.

This is not satisfactory. If there is the possibility of a flaw in the theory on which the Government's policies are based, it is better that it should be aired and recognized early, than that the Government should ride blindly into a crisis and adopt an ill-prepared alternative.

There are three points to consider. First, what precisely is the claim made by the monetarists? Secondly, what is its theoretical basis? Third, is that theory supported by evidence?

The monetarists' position is commonly stated by reference to demand and supply in the market for labour: firms will employ more labour the lower the wage relative to prices (that is, the lower the "real wage"); on the other hand, workers will offer more labour the higher the real wage.

Here there is a value for the real wage at which demand and supply are matched: everyone who wants a job at the going real wage will then be able to find one, apart from those who are searching for jobs and moving between them. Output will be limited by the full use of the labour force and the level of productivity in the economy; and unemployment will tend to the level which is the counterpart of the "natural" level of unemployment. Monetarists commonly take this for granted or assert it, without offering any theoretical justification.

Equilibrium

If one seeks a theoretical justification one is referred to the theoretical system of the nineteenth century mathematical economist Walras, who explored the condition, under which it is true to say that demand and supply in all the markets which comprise an economy will come into balance ("equilibrium") at a level and pattern of output that cannot be bettered, given the tastes and assets (including the innate skills) of all its members.

To quote Professor Milton Friedman, the natural rate of unemployment is the level that would be brought about by the Walrasian system of general equilibrium equations, provided that there is embedded in them the actual structural characteristics of the labour and commodity markets, including market imperfections.

In the past decade, Walrasian general equilibrium economics has been the subject of much study and refinement by mathematical economists. In the light of their work, Professor Friedman's appeal to Wal-

rasian economics to support his position does not stand up.

To understand why, it is necessary to consider two distinct questions.

The first one is quite abstract and is of the following form. In a world in which every enterprise or other economic unit is so small that it takes as given the price at which it can buy or sell, can the monetarist expansion in this world, it is impossible for anyone to be involuntarily unemployed, meaning unable to find a job at the going wage after searching for one.

This claim, though focused on the labour market, implies that, regardless of any changes in demand relative to supply, prices and quantities exchanged in all the markets for different goods and services, as well as wages, will change in such a way that total output in the economy as a whole will tend to the level which is the counterpart of the "natural" level of unemployment.

Moreover, in order to accommodate the existence of time and the uncertainties about the future which goes with it, one must either suppose that there are many more futures markets and insurance markets than is in fact the case, or suppose that people can foresee the future with such accuracy that nothing surprising can occur. Implicitly the monetarists always adopt these assumptions.

The second question is quite different. Given any initial set of prices, will market forces drive them towards values that ensure equilibrium? To this question, absolutely no satisfactory theoretical answer is available; any trained economist can construct examples with a negative answer. Moreover, the theorist is in a logical difficulty.

Having decided that economic units are so small that they cannot affect prices, he is hard put to it to find say reasons by which prices can change as a result, a fictitious auctioneer "whose task is to introduce into all markets the whole economy, including the labour market, has to be assumed to resemble a traditional wheat market—or Sotheby's—and further assumptions have to be introduced.

In the theory, the auctioneer always lowers prices in markets where there is excess supply and raises them in markets where there is excess demand. But, in reality, there is no auctioneer.

Having decided that

units and traders change prices, they may not behave like the theoretical auctioneer: for, if at the going price they cannot sell as much as they want, it is not always profitable to lower the price.

If the auctioneer is abandoned and it is assumed that prices (and wages) are influenced by the actions of firms and trade unions, a new equilibrium concept emerges which is much closer to Keynes. It can be defined as follows: it is a set of prices, and a set of quantities which can actually be sold and bought at one sees an advantage in price changes, and everyone's plans are compatible. If this state there can be involuntary unemployment. The question whether an equilibrium tends to such an equilibrium rather than displaying instability is unanswered.

Thus, even if the economy tends to an equilibrium, it need not be the Walrasian one where there is no involuntary unemployment. It implies that wages are set by bargaining between trade unions and employees, not by anything resembling an auction; and that unemployment can occur—unless, though unwilling, are unable to get a job at the going wage, it is not caused just by workers (other than those changing jobs) refusing to take jobs that are on offer because they believe the real wage is too low.

There are neither theoretical foundations nor empirical support for the monetarists' position that the real economy is self-regulating and that activity and employment can be relied upon to recover automatically from the present fiscal and monetary squeeze.

It is not our purpose to profound policies here. Indeed we have held different opinions about policy in the past and will well do so again were we to debate it now. Our common concern is that the Government's policy, as well as analysis and debate of alternatives, should not be based on a misleading notion of how the economy works.

Frank Hahn

Robert Neild

The authors are both professors of Economics at the university of Cambridge.

John Huxley

Breathing new life into Quarry Bank

Few textile companies either side of the Pennines can match the ambitious development programme embarked upon recently by Quarry Bank Mill, at Styal, Cheshire.

While the industry continues to contract—400 cotton mills have closed over the past 10 years—Quarry Bank is being renovated. Water courses are being excavated, machinery is being installed and, later, a new team of spinners will fill the galleries.

Regrettably perhaps, the efforts of Mr David Sekers, who runs it, are directed not towards a restoration of King Cotton so much as a celebration of one of his most famous and successful couriers, Samuel Greg.

Samuel Greg had by then become a sort of wonderman, with its 44-ton water-wheel, the water race tunnel running three-quarters of a mile underground.

It could be hard work for apprentices and mill-owners alike. A later Greg complained that he was leading a dog's life. "I never open a book... rise at 5.30 am, go to bed at 10 pm and toll like a galley slave all day."

In subsequent years, the four-storey mill was handicapped by its cramped site. It could not, however, be isolated from the vicissitudes of the textile industry. As early as 1887 it was "on its last legs". It hung on, literally clinging to the dam cliffs along the river, until 1959. The last products were laundry bags.

Fortunately for posterity, the mill, village and the estate on which it stood had 20 years earlier been given by Mr Alec Greg, great, great, grandson of the founder, to the National Trust.

At first, the trust attempted to secure the building's future by letting sections to small businesses, but by the end of the 1950s age finally caught up with the mill. It stood empty, little more than a shell needing urgent repair.

Before then there would have been little hope for an "old" old mill, built like Quarry Bank. At the heart of the 1970s, though, industrial archaeology was flourishing and the mill's worth was recognized.

Response will be self-financing, having worked for several years in the family company, Sekers International, before opening out, and into the Gladstones pottery museum at Stoke.

He describes himself as a "textile industry drop-out", having worked for several years in the Gladstones pottery museum at Stoke.

Eventually Mr Sekers and his enthusiastic team of assistants hope that apart from providing study facilities and displays of exhibits Quarry Bank will start producing again. "I want to see spinners and weavers working in a hot sticky atmosphere at Quarry Bank. I'd like visitors to be able to see the water frames,

with real things" when war broke out that autumn, to continue studying in the army, and qualify as soon as possible thereafter.

He joined Spicer & Pegler—then a six-partner firm with one of the original (1902) founding family still in charge—in 1949, and helped to develop the policies that took the firm out into association with their leading provincial counterparts in the 1950s.

"There was rather a feeling then, among the older members, that the grass grows green in the City... so why bother?" he says now. "But we couldn't have built up the United Kingdom connection, or that overseas unless everyone had agreed."

Spicer & Pegler still specializes in City work, and in a small public company, which signed an agreement with Langdon. "I think this is the way forward," he says. "We will have to develop everything will have to go into smaller units."

"I believe that a lot of our problems today stem from the fact that people are working at jobs they do not enjoy: they are just cogs in a large machine... people should work for themselves. You work harder, but you enjoy it much more."

As for the future of accountancy, he is firmly of the opinion that we need good auditing: we need people of an inquisitive and inquiring nature. There is a danger in the proliferation of standards.

His thought accountancy "rather dull", but was sufficiently hooked on "dealing



Samuel Greg's eighteenth century cotton mill at Quarry Bank, Styal, Cheshire.

The National Trust undertook to restore the mill—a task nearing completion.

A shopping list adding up to £750,000 has been drawn up. So far £150,000 has been spent, besides the £250,000 spent by the National Trust on renovation. The museum opened in June 1978, and later that year Mr Sekers was appointed museum director.

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At the moment, some £356m of public money—more than seven times the 1979 pre-tax profit of Mr Brookes' ship-to-newspapers Trafalgar House group—is committed to the task he will inherit.

By any criterion, that is a high level of neglect but it is easy to understand why Mr Brookes said what he did.

Docklands runs through five east London riverside boroughs—Newham, Southwark, Greenwich, Lewisham, and Tower Hamlets—all of which have been hit badly by the area's economic decline, notably in the operations of the Port of London and its ancillary trades.

The five councils, in partnership with the government and the Greater London Council, have been trying to attract industry back to the area since 1976, but with limited success.

While the programme to build new housing and roads in an area of extreme social deprivation has proceeded with pace, private enterprise has treated the project with some caution.

Between them, the developments will employ around 5,000 people, but few, if any, will be new jobs created in the docklands for local unemployed.

The Billingsgate and News International projects have been held up as examples of

the success of the strategy of the local councils, but the hollowness of the argument has not been lost on the Government.

This was one reason why Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for the Environment, decided to replace the Docklands Joint Committee with an urban development corporation headed by Mr Brookes, with Mr Bob Mellish, the East End Labour MP as deputy chairman.

The new body will not start work until next year, but already its existence has been criticized by the

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

The market will be looking with more than just passing interest at the batch of blue chips reporting this week to try to gain some boost to trading after one of the dullest accounts for a long time.

Full-year figures from ICI on Thursday head the list followed by three of the big financial institutions including Commercial Union, General Accident and National Westminster Bank.

Another busy week is also in store among the economic indicators starting today with the retail sales index for January from the Department of Trade.

On Tuesday the Department of Employment publishes the unemployment figures for February, followed on Thursday by the overtime and short-time working and the amount of time lost through stoppages and industrial unrest.

Finally, on Friday, the Department of Industry reports on car and commercial vehicle production for January.

Analysts are expecting National Westminster to put in the strongest performance of the major clearing banks when it reports on Tuesday. Recent results from its major United

Market pins hopes on blue chips

States acquisition, National Bank of North America, were disappointing while the Lombard North Central finance house side also turned in lower profits because of high interest rates.

However, at home the usual combination of high base rates and strong loan demand will produce handsome domestic banking profits which could also benefit from lower bad debts provisions.

NatWest is also nearing the end of its big capital spending programme with the near completion of the tower and the new computer centre. Estimates of 1979 pre-tax profits range from £29.4m to £46.2m from W. Greenwell to a 58 per cent rise from £470m from Phillips & Drew.

Also on Tuesday the first of the large insurance companies reports with Commercial Union unveiling its full year earnings.

The severe weather conditions experienced in Britain during the first half of last

year are expected to have made a severe dent in the company's performance. Estimates range from £133m to £143m compared with £142.2m last year.

Mr Peter Martin of brokers Capel Cure Myers also anticipates a profits setback from

This week

underwriting losses in North America. As a result he expects the net dividend to rise by 1p to 9.5p compared with a sector average of around 18 per cent.

Prospects for the current year do not look so bright either, with the situation in the United States market expected to deteriorate still further in that period when the group plans further expansion in that

On Wednesday, full year profits from General Accident are announced. These, too, are likely to show the ravages of

adverse weather conditions which will have had an adverse effect on earnings. Analysts in this case are predicting for between £88m to £92m compared with £90.1m last time.

But although the weather will prove a stumbling block the effect should be somewhat less severe than in the case of Commercial Union.

With GA having a much stronger dividend cover than CUC, observers are going for a 3p rise in the total dividend to 9.5p.

The week is rounded off on Thursday with full year figures from ICI which will include the first full-year inclusion of its substantial North Sea oil interests.

The range this time is between £555m and £580m compared with £421m last year. The contribution from its interest in the Ninius Field this year should reach £75m based on the oil price of about \$26 barrel.

The one question mark over gauging its performance lies

in the end-of-year currency adjustments which with the current strength of sterling might well take some of the glitter from profits.

A dividend of 31.43p is hoped for by some observers which give an increase of 14 per cent over last year's payment.

The outlook for the current year remains somewhat distorted. While profits from North Field should exceed £140m on a basis of \$34 a barrel technical production difficulties currently being encountered may well see this figure fall short. On the industrial side the world recession is bound to have some effect although to quite what extent is proving difficult to judge.

TODAY Interims: Camalot Ltd, Challenge Corp, Commercial Bank of Australia, Fostwear Industry Inv, London Ship Property, Te, Scottish Inv Tst (1st quarter), Thomas Walker, and Wian Inv (9 months). Finals: Cardinal Inv, Tst, and Imperial Chemical Inds.

Motives for the move are thought to be influenced by the fact that several large British insurance brokers are looking at the possibility of takeovers in the United States and do not want nationalistic barriers to

Nolton, and Raine Engineering Inds. Finals: Alco NV, IF,

JH Braime (Hides), Commerical Union, English & Scotch Inv, Hongkong Shangha Banking Corp, IMI, Investing in Process Equities, London & London Invest, Montevideo (Hides), Mount Charlotte Inv, National Westminster Bank and Vanson.

WEDNESDAY Interims: Australian & Indl Tst (amended), BOC Int (1st qu), BPCL (9 months). Finals: AC Cars, Allen Harvey & Ross, Fledgling Inv, General Accident & Life Ass, Hoover and Moon Hides, and Johnson Matthey.

The move comes as Bowring is doing everything it can to resist the bid.

Marsh Mac had hoped to enter London without a fight. Both insurance group's had spent some months discussing possible "pooling" arrangements but when it became clear that these could not work the duo began talking seriously.

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opinion in favour of allowing the Americans into the London Market.

The move would be the dominating force in any merger, talked of as "The Big Three".

FRIDAY Interims: Christy Bros. Finals: Habib Precision Engineering, Manchester Ship Canal, and Woodhouse & Rixson (Hides).

TOMORROW Interims: F Austin (Leyton), Peter Brotherhood, Michael Clark

Brokers approval for Marsh bid

The British Insurance Brokers Association has told their biggest group, the Office of Fair Trading, that the world's largest insurance brokers, Marsh Mac, of the United States, should be allowed to take over Lloyd's brokers, C. T. Bowring.

The move comes as Bowring is doing everything it can to resist the bid.

A spokesman for the BIBA said: "We have sent this memorandum to the Office of Fair Trading, but it was confidential and I cannot discuss its contents."

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Marsh Mac had hoped to enter London without a fight. Both insurance group's had spent some months discussing possible "pooling" arrangements but when it became clear that these could not work the duo began talking seriously.

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Hampton & Sons

01-236 7831

Stock Exchange Prices**Capitalization and week's change**

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Today. Dealings End, March 7. \$ Contango Day, March 10. Settlement Day, March 17

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

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INTERNATIONAL SENIOR
EXECUTIVE COURSE MARCH '80Contact Sylvia Priest, MBS Booth St West,
Manchester M15 6PB Tel: 061-273 8228

Stock Name Stock	Price Chg'd on Friday week pence per share	Int Gross div on Friday week per share	Gross Div last Friday P/E	Price Chg'd on Friday week pence per share	Int Gross div on Friday week per share	Gross Div last Friday P/E	Price Chg'd on Friday week pence per share	Int Gross div on Friday week per share	Gross Div last Friday P/E	Price Chg'd on Friday week pence per share	Int Gross div on Friday week per share	Gross Div last Friday P/E	Price Chg'd on Friday week pence per share	Int Gross div on Friday week per share	Gross Div last Friday P/E	Price Chg'd on Friday week pence per share	Int Gross div on Friday week per share	Gross Div last Friday P/E	
BRITISH FUNDS*																			
£100m Treasury 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Treasury 1977-80 96.18	-.05	.05	14,945	£100m Treasury 1980-82 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Treasury 1977-80 96.21	-.05	.05	14,945	£100m Treasury 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Fund 1980-82 97.05	-.05	.05	15,325	£100m Fund 1977-80 97.15	-.05	.05	15,325	£100m Fund 1980-82 97.18	-.05	.05	15,325	£100m Fund 1977-80 97.21	-.05	.05	15,325	£100m Fund 1980-82 97.21	-.05	.05	15,325
£100m Exch 1980-82 97.05	-.05	.05	15,325	£100m Exch 1977-80 97.15	-.05	.05	15,325	£100m Exch 1980-82 97.18	-.05	.05	15,325	£100m Exch 1977-80 97.21	-.05	.05	15,325	£100m Exch 1980-82 97.21	-.05	.05	15,325
£100m Treas 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Treas 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Treas 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Treas 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Treas 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Exch 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Fund 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Exch 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Fund 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Exch 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Fund 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Exch 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Fund 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Exch 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Fund 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Exch 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Fund 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Exch 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Fund 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Exch 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Fund 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Exch 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Fund 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Exch 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1977-80 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Exch 1980-82 95.21	-.05	.05	15,769
£100m Fund 1980-82 95.14	-.05	.05	15,769	£100m Fund 1977-80 95.18	-.05	.05	15,												

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